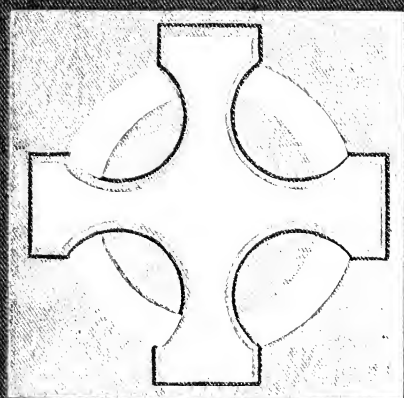


IRISH WHITE CROSS REPORT



REPORT
OF THE
IRISH WHITE CROSS
TO
31ST AUGUST, 1922

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OF THE
IRISH WHITE CROSS

TO

31ST AUGUST, 1922.

*This Report has been prepared by Mr.
W. J. Williams, M.A., for the Managing
:: Committee of the Irish White Cross. ::*

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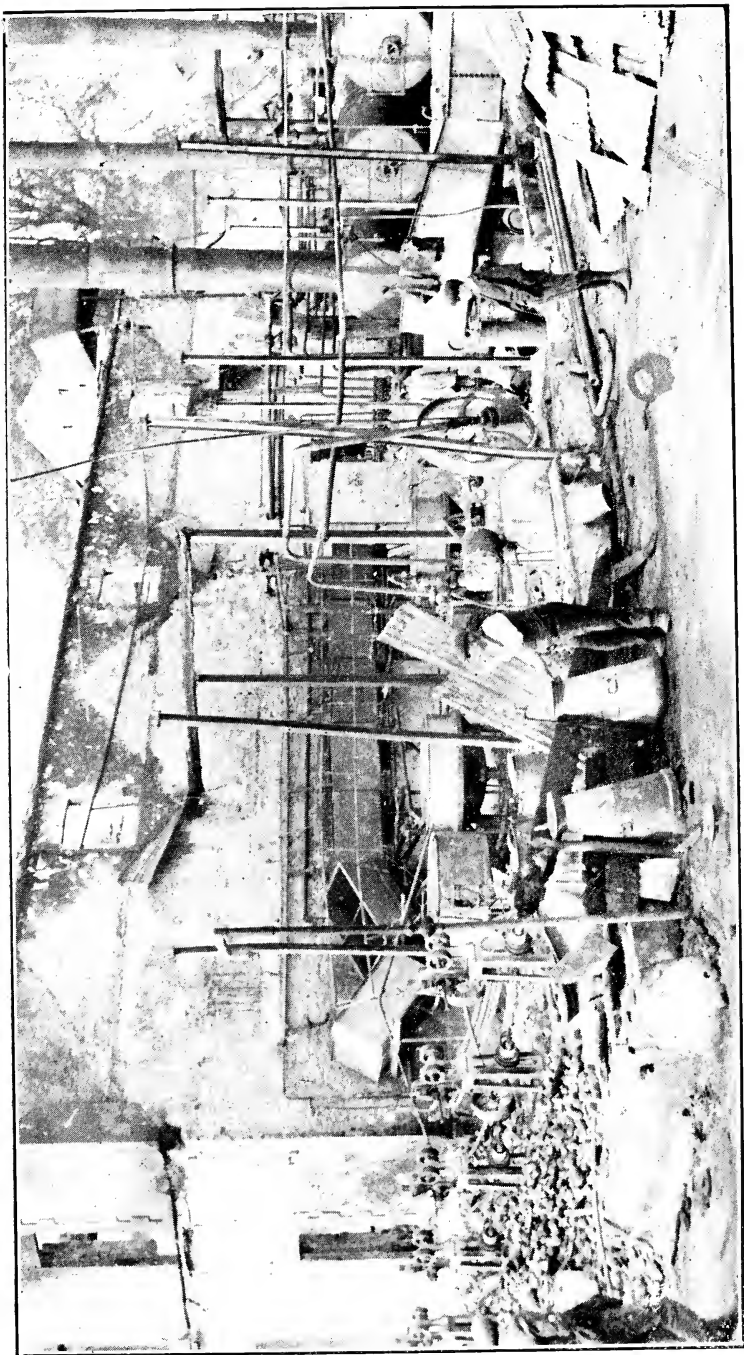
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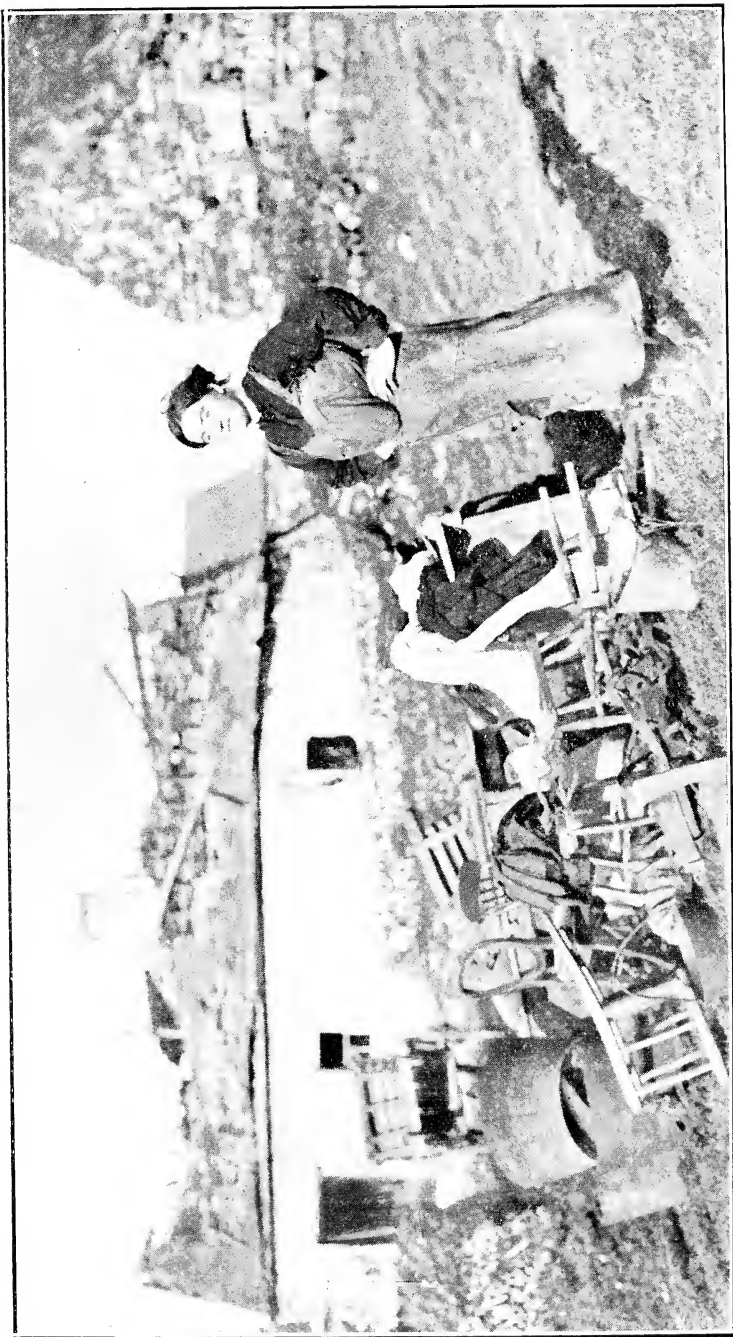
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Examples of the destruction which
the Irish White Cross was
founded to relieve.

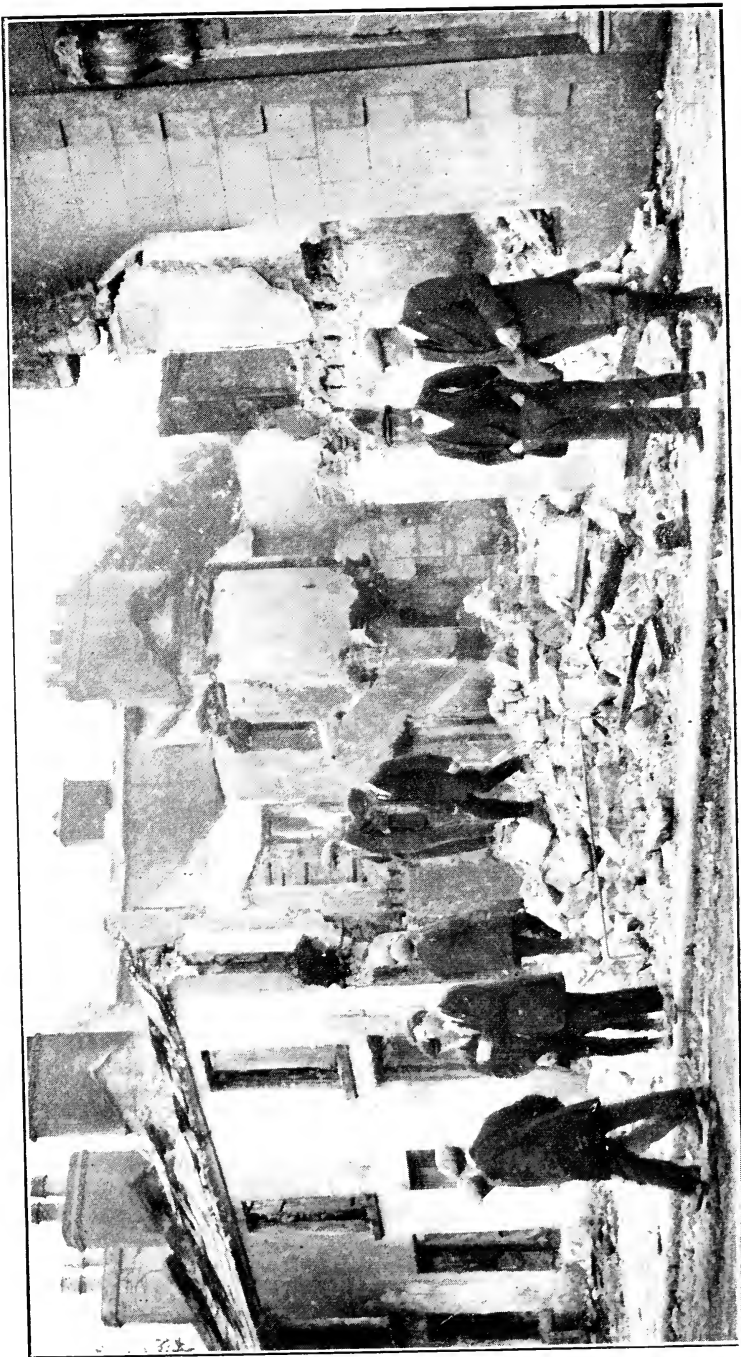


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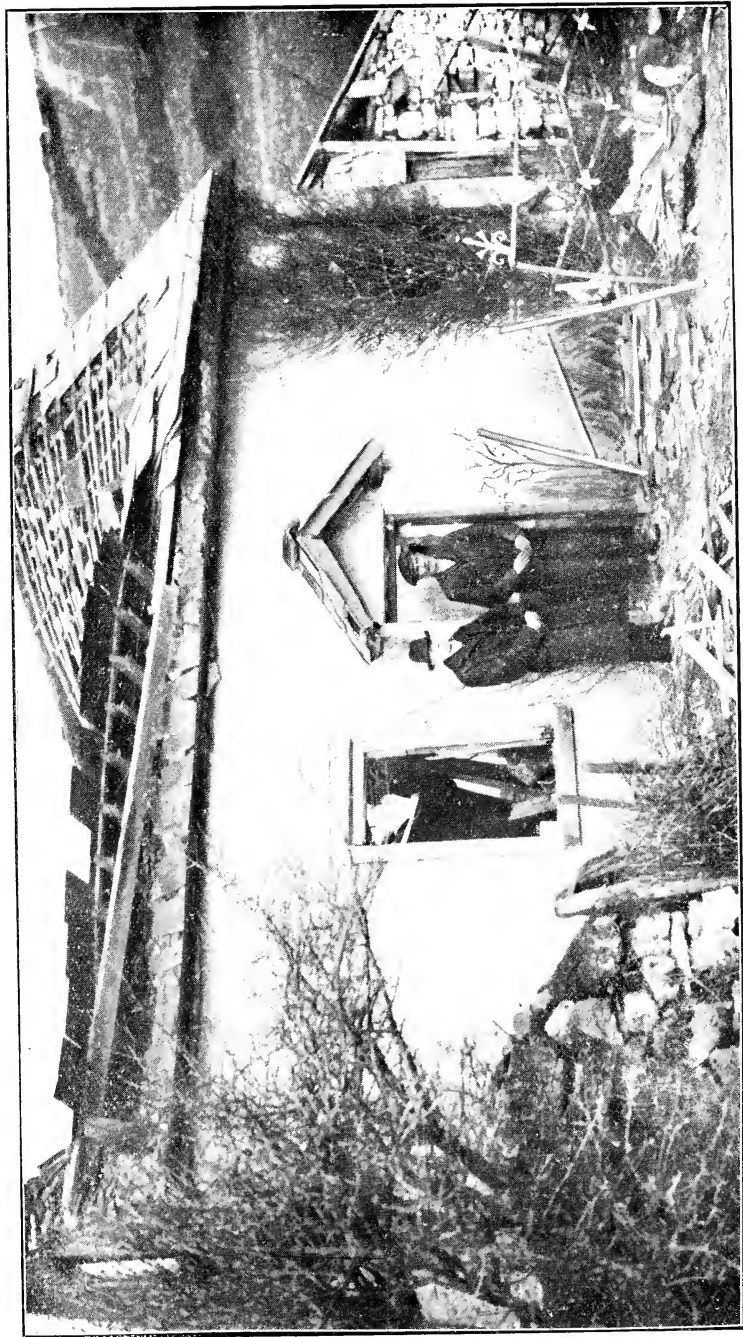
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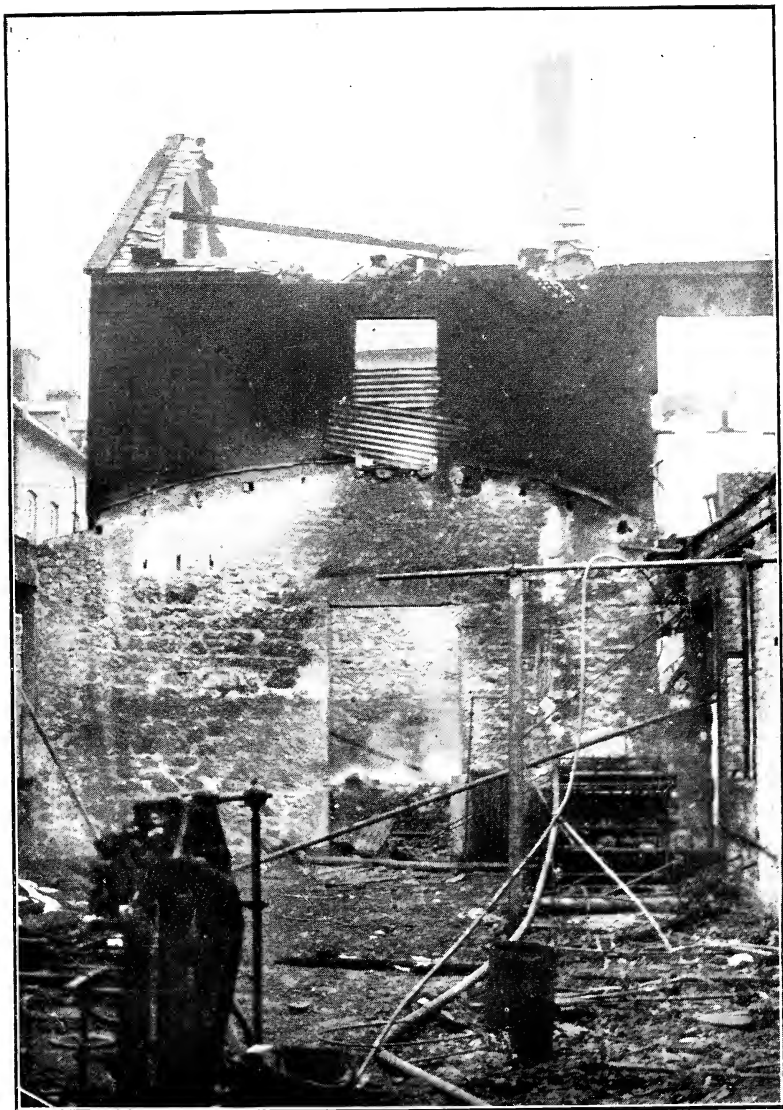
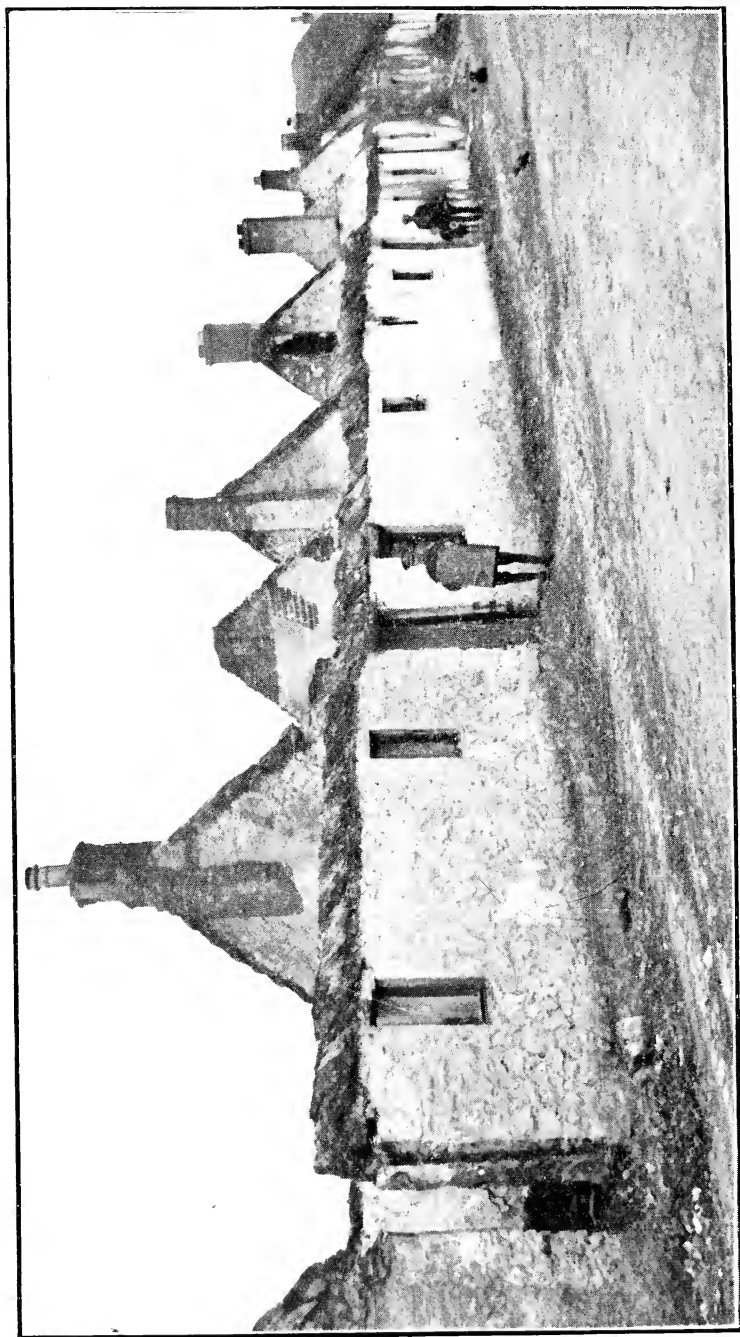


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[Hogan, Dublin.



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SINCE the Irish White Cross was organised it has lost three of its most distinguished members in the persons of the Most Rev. W. J. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin ; President Arthur Griffith, and General Michael Collins. Appreciations of each have been written for this Report by three gentlemen who know them intimately, both as Irish patriots and as active participants in the Society's great work of national aid and reconstruction.

HIS GRACE MOST REV DR. WALSH.

THE Association, which has suffered the loss of youthful strength in Michael Collins and of mature courage in Arthur Griffith, was also deprived of the aid which it drew from ripe, yet energetic wisdom and experience, based on a long lifetime of public leadership and service, when death in the fulness of years took from its roll the honoured name of the Most Rev. William J. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin. Dr. Walsh entered Irish public life over forty years ago, when he advocated a scheme of agrarian reform of an essentially constructive nature, directed to secure the land of their fathers for a people who, till then, were essentially but tenants-at-will. His versatile mind, pre-eminently active and far-seeing, was exercised not only on philosophy and theology, but also, in conspicuous ways, through economics, education, and the nobler problems of political action. The closing years of his long and distinguished career saw a display of energy, by public letters and personal influence, that won for his name and exalted position a great measure of public attention, abroad even more than at home. In America and elsewhere his established capacity and prestige were of far-reaching value to the White Cross Association ; and on more than one important occasion his advice and assistance proved themselves of high usefulness at home in Ireland. The whole mass of the people were greatly drawn into union

with and reliance on the Archbishop of Dublin during the eventful changes which followed the close of the European struggle ; and while his active aid in the work of the Society was especially evoked by the needs of more than one stricken area in his own diocese, his pen and influence extended their sway over the whole of the problems which the White Cross Association was called on to solve.

T. C.

PRESIDENT GRIFFITH.

THE praise of great men is the supreme justification of our common human nature, and particularly is this true in the case of Arthur Griffith. For he was not only great, he was in many remarkable respects exceptional ; and he was not only exceptional, but all his life he stood singularly separate and alone ; yet his attitude of mind and life was always that of a servant of the people of Ireland ; and with him, with all his stubborn and undefeatable purpose, the wish of the common people was always the arbiter in all issues.

I believe that history will find that Arthur Griffith was not only the greatest man of his time and generation, but that he will rank with the handful of national leaders who were also creators, men who changed the entire thought of the people from one direction to another, and thus gave Ireland new life from a new idea : Charles Stewart Parnell, Thomas Davis, the earlier Dan O'Connell, Wolfe Tone, Hugh O'Neill, Brian Borumha, Cormac Mac Airt : all men of a clear philosophy and intellectual outlook. And, so far as one man may speak of another, I am sure he was always conscious of this, and never ultimately doubted (despite the dark hours in every man's soul, in some of which I saw him) the family into which he was born. I do not think this merely because of his positive manner, because very often a positive manner is born of doubt and hesitancy, but because of his great courage, because of his tenacity and strength of will.

Yet he was a sensitive, shy man, who wore a manner of apparent coldness like a protecting armour. And I do not know where one may find in any man so complete a disregard of self. I remember one night, when I was lodging with him, we sat till the early hours of the morning while he told me the causes that had led him to certain actions of the past, and to unfold his plans for the future. It was when we had returned from Reading Jail, and when all Ireland was looking to him to assume leadership. I had myself urged this upon him, and he discussed the question of leadership simply and quietly, putting himself out of the question firmly, frankly stating why he judged himself unsuited, and saying that he considered it his task and duty to find a leader, whom he would serve as his right-hand man, putting at his disposal all the fruits of his experience and observation. Never once did he ask anything for himself, or even so much as let such a thought cross the threshold of his mind. Yet, behind it all, the stubborn man of conviction was there; for, though he did not say or suggest it, one felt that the right-hand man, however patient and self-forgetting, would never permit his leader, when found, to lead the people in wrong paths. He was content that his judgment should be made a service for which he should receive no recognition, but he was ready also, if necessary, to give it with intractable authority.

The truth was that he regarded himself as a man with a trust, a servant of the people of Ireland. He was the most loyal man it was possible to meet—loyal to fault as a friend, with whom loyalty in answer was a simple responsibility—loyal as a servant of the people, whose will to him was an iron necessity, even though he firmly disagreed with it. His life as journalist and propagandist was an effort to convince them, never to dictate to them. When he was offered profitable employment abroad as a journalist, he did not, as other men would do, and have done, weigh the offer. It was simply treated as an irrelevance, while he went on with his work. When he found himself in a minority (and the greater part of his public life was spent in what appeared to be a hopeless minority), it did not occur to him to brow-

beat the people. He went on with his work of conviction, content always to accept their decision for the time being. And he did these things as part of a clear and reasoned national philosophy, which in rare moods and in chosen company he was prepared to expound and justify.

Ireland has never been served more faithfully. Those who knew and loved him (whom to know truly was to love with no ordinary love) have lost what can never be replaced. No man can be loved who is not himself a good lover ; and great was his capacity for love. And perhaps it was because he was so true a servant and so stalwart a lover that he, of all leaders in Ireland, was permitted to bring in the harvest which he had sown, and was not permitted to wait till the sheaves were threshed, for in harvest-home there is joy, but in threshing there is often disappointment.

He has left behind him a fame that will increase with time, a memory to be cherished as of great price, and an example that may, indeed, stand above our camp both as pillar and beacon.

DARRELL FIGGIS.

GENERAL MICHAEL COLLINS.

"MICHAEL COLLINS is one of the most humane men I have ever met," said a member of the Organisation Committee of the White Cross during a discussion on the wisdom of having a man so objectionable to the British on our list of Trustees. The speaker, then an admirer, afterwards became a strong political opponent of General Collins, but the truth uttered did not change with Irish politics, and thousands of humble persons will prefer to remember Mick Collins for his big kind heart rather even than for his finest deeds of heroism or acts of statesmanship.

Mr. Collins was Trustee of the White Cross from the commencement, and always took a keen interest in its wel-

fare. Even at the time of the Terror, when there was a price on his head, he kept himself informed of the details of organisation, etc., of the relief work, and on several occasions made valuable suggestions for improvements. After the Truce he was able to take an open and active part in the work of relief, and much of the work, especially that of the Reconstruction Commission, is due to his initiative. When the White Cross was formed, his name as Trustee was used to suggest that the work would be party in character, and that only Sinn Fein adherents would obtain relief. I am glad of this opportunity to state that this was directly contrary to the facts, and, both before and after the Truce, no Trustee was more jealous of the truly non-party character of relief than Michael Collins. When we were criticised by persons actuated more by patriotism than by wisdom, because we gave assistance to the families of spies, Mr. Collins at once defended us and assured us of the support of the army chiefs.

Michael Collins felt keenly the extent to which the people, especially women and children, had to suffer as a result of the struggle, and he was continuously thinking of ways of alleviating distress. He seemed to feel a kind of personal responsibility for it. I met him to discuss plans just after his first visit to the country after the Truce, and I well remember the tears in his eyes as he spoke of details of suffering in the country towns. He at once proposed a scheme of loans for the repair of roofs and farmhouses, and suggested an immediate cable to U.S.A. for more funds. Busy man though he was, he insisted on interesting himself in individual cases of need, and this continued right up to the time of his death. No case was too insignificant for his attention, and once he became interested in a case he never forgot it until satisfied the need had been met. I have rarely met a man who made you love and respect him, almost whether you wanted to or not, like Michael Collins—his enthusiasm and energy were contagious—you felt you wanted to work for Ireland, and in the way he wanted you to work.

This is not the place to write of General Michael Collins,

the soldier—or of Chairman Collins the minister—or of Plenipotentiary Collins the Peace Delegate—and I have written of him just as I knew him in White Cross work—as a man with sound judgment and with a great big heart, who loved Ireland passionately, and to whom Ireland meant the Irish people—all the people, North, South, or Centre.

JAMES G. DOUGLAS.

IRISH WHITE

SECTION

(A.) Income and Expenditure Account for the Period

EXPENDITURE.

August 31st, 1922.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Relief Grants:—						
Branch Committees	804,955	16	3			
(Of which £788,215 14s. 5d. has been distributed to date.)						
Funds allocated for continuation of Relief of Disabled Persons	75,000	0	0			
(Of which £11,478 2s. 2d. has been distributed to date.)						
Orphaned Children's Fund	150,000	0	0			
(Of which £1,835 18s. 8d. has been distributed to date.)						
Hospital Grants, etc.	4,038	8	4			
General Distress in Famine Areas	33,000	0	0			
(Of which £31,428 10s. 0d. has been distributed to date.)						
Special Allocation for Balbriggan	4,000	0	0			
				1,070,994	4	7
„ Reconstruction Commission				275,243	10	0
„ Employment Schemes				4,831	14	2
„ Administrative Expenses:—						
Premises and Furniture	3,083	13	7			
Travelling Expenses and Investigation Fees	5,814	1	6			
Office Salaries and Wages	3,562	18	10			
Publicity	1,176	10	10			
Printing and Stationery	1,008	9	1			
Architect's Fees and Expenses—Belfast Housing Scheme	461	0	0			
Audit Fee	131	5	0			
Legal Expenses	45	3	0			
Carried forward,	£15,283	1	10	£1,351,069	8	9

CROSS REPORT.

I.

from its Inception to 31st August, 1922.

INCOME.

August 31st, 1922.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Subscriptions through							
American Committee for							
Relief in Ireland		1,210,627	11	3			
„ U.S.A. direct	....	62,619	4	8			
„ Canada	....	8,659	4	5			
					1,281,906	0	4
„ Ireland	....				62,643	19	2
„ England	....	9,517	3	4			
„ Scotland	....	3,814	6	1			
„ Other Countries	....	8,253	16	0			
„ His Holiness the late Pope							
Benedict XV.	....	5,149	6	8			
					26,734	12	1
„ Bank Interest	....	3,457	15	0			
„ Sale of Stamps	....	52	15	3			
					3,510	10	3

Carried forward,

£1,374,795 1 10

IRISH WHITE

Income and Expenditure Account for the Period

		EXPENDITURE.					
August 31st, 1922.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,					1,351,069	8	9
To Administrative Expenses—							
<i>continued:—</i>							
Brought forward,		15,283	1	10			
Branch Committees' Expenses		222	7	3			
Rent, Rates and Taxes		354	15	4			
Fuel and Light		106	8	6			
Telephone, Postage and Telegrams		445	2	2			
Cheque Books and Bank Charges		20	12	5			
Sundry Expenses, comprising Freight and Cartage, Car Hire, Repairs, Insurance, House and Office Requisites, Flag Day and Concert Expenses, etc.		293	5	7			
					16,725	13	1
„ Vote to meet future Administration Expenses and Liabilities					7,000	0	0
					£1,374,795	1	10

We certify that the foregoing Account has been prepared and that it is correct.

13 WESTMORELAND STREET,
DUBLIN, 20th October, 1922.

Undistributed Funds at date.

Balance of Council's Vote for:—		£	s.	d.
Administrative Expenses		7,000	0	0
Relief of Disabled Persons		63,521	17	10
General Distress in Famine Areas		1,571	10	0
Belfast Relief Grants Committee		16,740	1	10
Orphaned Children's Fund		148,164	1	4

CROSS SOCIETY.

from its Inception to 31st August, 1922—*Contd.*

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,	1,374,795	1	10

£1,374,795 1 10

from the books and vouchers of the Irish White Cross Society,

D. O'CONNOR & CO.,

Chartered Accountants,

Auditors.

A full report of the expenditure of the undistributed funds will be issued as soon as the work is completed. The Children's Fund is being administered by a Committee appointed by the Council, and all other Funds are being administered by the Managing Committee, both Committees being subject to the control of the Trustees.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION,

(B.) Accounts from Inception of

August 31st, 1922.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To amount for Loans sanctioned by Commission and completed				243,063	0	0
„ Amount advanced as Loans by Irish White Cross Council....				18,493	10	0
„ Balance carried down, Loans sanctioned by Commission, but not completed				8,937	0	0
				<u>£270,493</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
August 31st, 1922.						
To Architects' and Inspectors' Fees and Travelling Expenses	684	12	7			
„ Legal Expenses :—						
(a) Expenditure, including Printing, Engrossing, and Stamp Duty on Loan Agreements, £759 13 7						
(b) Solicitor's Remuneration, 260 0 0						
				<u>1,019</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>
„ Salaries and Wages	1,214	0	2			
„ Stationery and Books	183	1	3			
„ Postage and Telegrams	66	2	10			
„ Special Survey of Damage undertaken at request of late General Collins	<u>2,321</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>			
					5,489	10 2
„ Balance carried down					9,946	0 3
					<u>£15,435</u>	<u>10 5</u>

We certify that the foregoing Accounts have been prepared Cross Society, and that they are correct and in accordance with

13 WESTMORELAND STREET,

DUBLIN, 8th November, 1922.

August 31st, 1922	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By amount voted by Irish White Cross Council for Reconstruction Loans				252,000	0	0
„ Amount of Loans advanced by Irish White Cross Council, transferred to Reconstruction Commission				18,493	10	0
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				£270,493	10	0
August 31st, 1922.				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
By Balance brought down				8,937	0	0
„ Amount voted by Irish White Cross Council for Administration Expenses				4,750	0	0
„ Bank Interest Received				1,748	10	5

£15,435 10 5

£9,946 0 3

*Chartered Accountants,
Auditors.*

IRISH WHITE CROSS REPORT.

SECTION II.

ORIGIN AND PERSONNEL OF THE IRISH WHITE CROSS.

The Irish White Cross Society was organised to cope with the distress and destitution resulting in Ireland from the war caused by the determination of the Irish people to assert their right to nationhood. This war in its intensified form began about the middle of 1920, and by the close of that year its consequences in human suffering for the Irish people were on a scale so large that relief work transcended altogether the efforts of private charity. It early became apparent that a central organisation was called for to combine and systematise private efforts, and so to extend their sphere and efficacy. Towards the end of 1920 a body of men and women came together, on the invitation of, and under the chairmanship of, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Dublin, to consider how it was possible to alleviate the great amount of suffering that, even at that date, had resulted from the Irish conflict. These men and women were representative of practically every section of the political and religious beliefs of the Irish community—except, indeed, of the Orange and Unionist parties of the North-East corner. They were actuated solely by humanitarian motives, for they were convinced that the relief of human suffering was a moral duty binding on every citizen, irrespective of political or religious creed. In Ireland,

owing to the special circumstances of her history, the lines of social, political, and religious cleavage cut more deeply than in other countries, and, as a rule, the resulting animosities render difficult co-operation for national purposes. In the case of the Irish White Cross this difficulty never made itself felt. From the first its members devoted themselves to their humanitarian work, unhampered by their private views on the issue in the Irish conflict. As private citizens they differed fundamentally on that issue; in their corporate capacity their sole function was to work for the relief of their suffering fellow-countrymen. That they have succeeded in their task is proved by the fact that, widely as they differed among themselves on public matters, not one of them resigned from the Society, while no complaint was ever made by any of them, that the work of the organisation had ever been deflected in any respect from the purely charitable line laid down for it at the time of its foundation.

The names of the Officers of the Society, of the Trustees, of the Members of the Standing Executive, of the General Council, and of the Managing Committee are given at the beginning of this report. The President of the Society was His Eminence, Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland. On the General Council there were two Catholic Archbishops; two Bishops of the Protestant Church of Ireland; the Chief Rabbi of the Jewish community of Dublin; an ex-President of the Irish Methodist Conference; leading Dublin members of the Religious Society of Friends; the Lord Mayors and Mayors of nine Irish cities and towns; several members of Dáil Eireann; representatives of organised labour; a member of the British House of Lords, and many prominent figures in the professional and commercial life of Ireland. From the beginning the

Chairman of the Council was the Right Hon. L. O'Neill, Lord Mayor of Dublin, whose position brought him into close touch with the events that made the Society necessary. Thus, the organisation was thoroughly representative of all that is best and most characteristic in the life of Ireland.

At the time the Society was founded the terrorist policy was at its height. Already more than 1,000 houses—homesteads, shops, farm-buildings—had been destroyed, whereby 1,000 families were left without homes. Creameries and factories had been ruined, thus causing widespread dislocation in the economic life of the areas they served, with consequent acute distress and poverty. Many people had been killed or maimed, or dragged from their families to be confined in prisons or internment camps. And it must be remembered that the victims of this policy were mainly the non-combatant population. In addition to these victims of the policy of terrorism by the British, there were the victims of the frenzied outbursts of violence in Belfast, in consequence of which some 10,000 workers had been expelled from the factories and workshops of that city, and their homes destroyed and looted.

As a result of all this violence there were about 100,000 people reduced to destitution, with no alternative left to them but the support of charity or escape from their miseries by death from want and hunger. To help these destitute people the Irish White Cross was founded. For this task funds were needed on a scale more extended than it was possible for Ireland herself to provide. That these funds were available was due to the organisation in the United States of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland—a list of whose members is printed at the beginning of this report.

No reference to the personnel of the Irish White Cross would be complete without a tribute to the energy, efficiency, and courtesy of the Director of Organisation, Henry Kennedy, M.A., D.Sc., a member of the staff of University College, Dublin (to which the gratitude of the Society is due for enabling it to avail itself of the services of Dr. Kennedy), the Acting Secretary, Captain D. L. Robinson, D.S.O., and the office staff generally, under their direction. The work involved in the management of a large organisation, such as the Irish White Cross, is so complex that were it not for the efficiency of the Director and his staff the Society could not have succeeded in its work of relief.

SECTION III.

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN IRELAND.

Quite independently of the Irish White Cross in Ireland, there had been founded in New York City in December, 1920, a Committee for the Relief of Irish Distress. This Society entered on its task in the same humane spirit that had inspired the many charitable organisations sent forth from the United States to relieve the misery and suffering in European areas in the days of the great war. As with the Irish Society, so with the American Committee, the inspiring motive was philanthropy, not politics, and it counted among its supporters representatives of all classes, political and religious, in the United States.

The command of the cables by the British, and their consequent control of the ear of the world, made it difficult for the facts of the Irish situation to be known abroad; but the wall was not

impervious, and the cries of Irish suffering made themselves heard beyond the Atlantic, and found sympathetic response in the humane spirit of the American people. The Committee set about its task in characteristic American fashion, and soon the call for the relief of Irish suffering made itself heard from the Canadian border to the Caribbean Sea, from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific. A series of great "drives" for funds was organised throughout the 48 States of the Union, and in a short period of time the Committee had at its command a large sum—approximately 5,000,000 dollars—for the relief of the sufferers in Ireland.

The Committee entered on its task with the approval of President Harding, who sent the following message in recommendation of its work :—

"I wish you the fullest measure of success, not only in the great benefit performance at the Metropolitan Opera House on April 3rd, but in every worthy effort to make a becoming contribution on the part of our people to relieve distress among the women and children of Ireland. The people of America will never be deaf to the call for relief on behalf of suffering humanity, and the knowledge of distress in Ireland makes quick and deep appeal to the more fortunate of our own land, where so many of our citizens trace kinship to the Emerald Isle."

The President's support was followed by that of numbers of men prominent in American life—Governors of States, political leaders, great captains of industry, churchmen and social workers. Among them may be mentioned Vice-President Coolidge; Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, famous for his work in relief of Belgian suffering; J. Wingate Weeks, Secretary for War; William J. McAdoo, ex-Secretary of the Treasury; Bernard

Baruch, ex-head of the War Industries Board; James W. Gerard, ex-Ambassador to Germany. Many of these did not rest content with giving the Committee the moral support of their approval, or helping it by their personal contributions to its funds; they took active part in the campaign in support of the "drives," touring the country, and making known everywhere the sufferings of the Irish people, and the need for means for their relief.

The Catholic Church, as was but natural in the cause of Ireland, took up the work with enthusiasm, its efforts being generously seconded by members of other American religious bodies. In this connection it seems right to mention the Jewish community of New York City, which made a united effort through its clubs to give generous help to the work of Irish relief. From the beginning American members of the Religious Society of Friends were prominent in the ranks of the active workers. In the January of 1921 a group of its members (Messrs. R. Barclay Spicer, Philadelphia, Pa.; Oren B. Wilbur, Greenwich, New York; William Price, Philadelphia, Pa.; John C. Baker, Everett, Pa.; Walter C. Longstreth, Philadelphia, Pa.), accompanied by Messrs. C. J. France, Seattle, Washington, and S. D. McCoy, New York City, came to Ireland to ascertain for the American Committee the nature and extent of American aid necessary for the relief of the Irish people.* These were men experienced in relief and reconstruction work in France and other areas devastated in the great war.

During their mission, which lasted until April, 1921, Mr. France acted as Chairman, and Mr. McCoy as Secretary, the latter not returning to America until October, 1921. Mr. France remained in Ireland until June, 1922, acting as representative of the American Committee in connection with the

* For Report of the delegates on the conditions in Ireland, made to the American Committee, see Appendix B.

distribution of the American Fund, and winning for himself the regard of all he met, because of the keen sympathy he always showed with Irish suffering. Indeed, his interest in Ireland and her people extended beyond the limits of his special business as representative of the American Committee, so much so, indeed, that it would seem that the traditional influence of the country on strangers was exercised in his case too, for of him it can be said with truth that he was "*Hibernior Hibernicis ipsis.*"

What is true of the leaders of politics and religion is true also of other sides of American life. Theatrical managers and leaders in the world of athletics and sport, all lent their aid. A famous promoter organised a tournament whereby was netted £16,000 for Irish relief. Then there was Ireland's great singer, John MacCormack, who organised a series of concerts, helping with his own glorious voice, and handing to the Committee over £35,000 in aid of the Irish sufferers.

In every State and in the great cities prominent men were found willing to serve on district committees, thus ensuring public confidence all through the United States, and contributing in no small degree to the success of the "drives." On the lists of members of these committees are to be found the names of some of the best known men in the life of America.

Able supported as they were by the district organisations, the main credit for the success of the American Committee is due to the Central Executive and its officers. Busy men all of them, prominent in the commercial life of New York, they willingly gave their time and energy to the work of the Committee. Special reference must be made to the untiring efforts of Judge Morgan J. O'Brien, Chairman; Mr. John J. Pulleyn, Treasurer; Judge

Richard Campbell, Secretary, and the other members of the Managing Committee, Mr. John D. Ryan, Mr. Thomas J. Moloney, and Mr. J. W. McConaughy. A word of appreciation is also due to the members of the staff, and to Mr. James A. Healy, Assistant Secretary, and to Mr. E. J. McPike, Assistant Treasurer.

As proof of the enthusiasm for the fund felt by the people generally the following details may be cited :—

The procedure of the Committee in raising the money was to assign specific amounts as the quotas of the States. Six States—Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Florida, Delaware, and the district of Columbia—over subscribed the quotas assigned. The town of Dalton, Mass., whose population is only 4,000, subscribed £1,000. Cambria Co., Pa., sent a cheque for £2,500, intimating that it was its desire that this sum should be given to some one place in Ireland, as a token of its gratitude for help rendered to it by Ireland in 1889, when it suffered heavily through a disastrous flood. This amount was allocated by the Committee to the Belfast Expelled Workers' Fund. From the American Red Cross came a contribution of £100,000.

The funds thus made available were distributed through the Irish White Cross—the American Committee recognising the national character of the Society, and wisely considering that the needs of the sufferers could best be met by those who had first-hand knowledge of the circumstances in the distressed areas. Without the aid of the American Committee the Irish Society could never have brought adequate relief to the victims of the Irish conflict. That they were in a position to do so is due almost wholly to the fine humanitarian spirit

that is the dominant characteristic of the people of the United States.

It was but fitting, therefore, on the departure for America of Messrs. Pulleyn and Campbell, the representatives of the Committee who visited Ireland in the Autumn of 1921, that public expression of the gratitude of the Irish people should have been made through the Irish plenipotentiaries, then engaged in London in negotiating the Irish Peace. The "Irish Bulletin" of November, 1921, published the letter of thanks, signed by the five plenipotentiaries, and devoted the whole of that issue to an appreciation of the work of relief that the American Committee had made it possible to carry out in Ireland. This letter is reproduced in Appendix C to this report.

SECTION IV.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

The war in Ireland was a struggle, the brunt of which was borne by the civilian population in many areas all through the country. Very many people lost their lives; upon many more wounds were inflicted, which incapacitated them for working for the support of themselves and of their dependents; property of every kind was destroyed, towns, villages, and isolated houses and farms in the remoter districts being ruined by fire or explosives. This war on the non-combatant part of the population was set on foot by way of reprisal for the acts of guerilla warfare carried out by the fighting men of the Irish National movement, and also because—as is natural in such warfare—it was not easy to discriminate between the fighting-men and the non-combatants. One of its objects was to

cow by terrorism the masses of the people, and so to deprive the armed forces of the movement of the moral support of the general body of the people, without which, it was felt, they could be easily dealt with and forced into submission. The sufferings of every kind thus inflicted on such a wide scale threatened to destroy utterly large sections of the Irish community, and it was to endeavour to prevent this that the Irish White Cross Society came into being.

It has been computed that in the course of this conflict at least 2,000 houses—dwellinghouses, farmsteads, shops—were utterly destroyed, while about 1,500 were partially destroyed, many of the latter being rendered uninhabitable. In this way nearly 3,000 families were cast on the world homeless, and very often with the loss of their entire possessions. The majority of the victims were of the small farmer class in the country, and of the shopkeeper and artisan class in the towns. These had little or no resources to fall back upon, and were it not for the aid of the charitable large numbers must have perished from cold or hunger.

Forty Co-operative Creameries were totally ruined and their whole machinery reduced to scrap-iron, thirty-five were partly wrecked and rendered unfit for work. Details given to the Reparation Commission, now constituted, respecting the Condensed Milk Co. of Ireland, whose Creamery at Mallow was burned, make it clear how severe a blow was dealt to rural industry by this policy of ruin. The manager stated that the average weekly wages bill before the burning was £510 0s. 0d., since then it was only £210. The employees were Mallow men, and their wages were expended in the town. The number employed was 200, and the Creamery served an area 10 miles in radius from Mallow. Ireland being so largely an agricultural and pastoral

country, it will be readily understood how serious a blow this destruction was to the economic life and general well-being of the areas concerned. The destruction of farmhouses, etc., injured primarily the individual owners; the ruin of the Creameries was a blow at the very life of the whole community. Similar in its effects was the policy of banning fairs and markets in disturbed areas on the pretext of restoring order. This punitive measure was frequently resorted to all through the South and West, and it inflicted enormous losses in the areas involved. In certain parts of the island whole districts, *e.g.*, the Dingle Peninsula and parts of Donegal, were isolated, cut off as by a blockade from the rest of the country—a policy, the effects of which were intensified by the derailing of trains by the national forces, with its consequent dislocation of rail-borne traffic in some of those areas, as in Donegal. No transport was permitted in or out, no postal services were allowed; as such areas depend largely on outside districts, it is not surprising that such a measure cost the inhabitants much suffering in hunger and want of every kind. In many of the areas that have undergone this policy it will take years to undo the injury inflicted on their economic life. Individual sufferers may be partially compensated for the losses they have sustained, but the loss to the community cannot so easily be repaired.

In the course of the struggle some 7,000 persons were arrested, and frequently without a charge even being made against them, were confined in prisons or internment camps. The great majority of these were non-combatants, and as the labour of most of them was necessary for the support of their families, the consequent suffering of their dependents was often very considerable. Frequently three or four were taken from the same house, the only bread-

winners of their families, and the plight of the latter was pitiable. The conditions in many of the camps were bad, and so the families thus deprived of their means of support had to provide not only for themselves as best they could, but often for their former breadwinners in addition. It is true that national associations were organised to help the prisoners, but, needless to say, in the great want that prevailed throughout the country those efforts fell far short of what was required.

Another direction in which the conflict adversely affected Irish life in general relates to the municipal and public services. For certain purposes it was the practice to make grants from the British Treasury to public bodies in respect of certain public services. The grants, of course, were from the taxes paid by the Irish taxpayer to the British tax collectors. Because of the refusal of the public bodies any longer to recognise the British administrative authorities in Ireland, these payments were withheld by the British Treasury. In certain cases such action was a serious menace to public well-being, *e.g.*, in the case of municipal contributions to the up-keep of hospitals and to the provision of school meals for necessitous school children. In the resulting disorganisation of municipal finance such contributions were no longer available, and much hardship was inflicted on classes of the community very unfitted to have any addition made to the ordinary burdens of their life. The injury to the public through the consequent hampering of the hospital services was exceedingly grave, and it must be remembered that it took place at a time when their wards were crowded with the results of the policy of murder and maiming that was the order of the day.

Even graver, because of its possible and probable effects on the physical health of the future genera-

tions, was the hampering of the activities of the various societies concerned with child-welfare. In cities and towns there is always a considerable proportion of the population either beyond or not far removed from the border-line of poverty or actual want. For the feeding and general care of the children of tender age of these impoverished people public aid is essential if they are to survive at all. In Ireland as in Great Britain these societies were aided by the municipal and other local bodies, who were empowered by statute to strike rates for specific purposes, and on the rate being struck were entitled to grants in aid from the British Treasury. At best, these contributions fell far short of what these services required for their adequate performance. The withdrawal of the grant was, therefore, in effect an act of war on hungry children, whatever was its intention; and it was a blow impossible to parry in the general dislocation of municipal finance had not the Irish White Cross come to the assistance of the societies thus hampered. There can be no question that its action in this matter came well within its scope as reliever of the victims of the Irish war.

In Dublin alone the number of children fed at school at public cost varies in normal times from some 7,000 in the warmer seasons to about 10,000 as the winter advances. It must be remembered that the amounts available for this service, even when supplemented by the Treasury grants, allowed only very scanty provision for the needs of the poor hungry children. All during the period of the conflict—when industry had been disorganised, and the breadwinners in many of these poor families thrown out of employment through various causes connected directly or indirectly with the conflict—the need for such feeding was stronger than ever.

Besides provision for school meals, there was

also municipal aid rendered to other bodies concerned with infant welfare, *e.g.*, baby-clubs, societies of a philanthropic character that concern themselves with the general care of babies in poor homes, and look after sick and expectant mothers, whose home resources do not permit of their meals being provided for otherwise. All those societies had their usefulness much curtailed through the dislocation of the municipal finances, and some of them, if they were to continue their very necessary work, had to be aided by the Irish White Cross.

The systematic destruction of industry was one of the objects of the terror. Its effect in connection with one branch of industrial effort has already been touched on in reference to the ruin of the creameries and other sections of co-operative work. In many of the smaller towns, where the inhabitants were dependent on one or two industries for employment, the results of this policy were still more disastrous. Balbriggan is a case in point. Here, on the night of September 20th, 1920, by way of a reprisal for the killing of a police officer, 25 dwellinghouses with their contents were burned to the ground, and the owners and their families thus rendered homeless. This was bad enough, but a much more serious blow was struck against the life of the people by the total destruction of one of the famous Balbriggan hosiery factories, on which so large a proportion of the inhabitants of this little town depended for their means of living. By the destruction of this one factory alone 120 persons employed therein were thrown out of work, and in addition 300 others who worked for it by doing piecework at their own homes.

The burning of Cork on December 11th and 12th, 1920, may be fittingly mentioned here, because of the large number of business premises destroyed in the conflagration, and the resultant distress

caused to those who had found employment therein. It is not considered necessary to describe in detail the burning and its attendant incidents, or the mysteriousness in which those responsible for this gigantic act of arson sought to involve it. It is sufficient here to summarise the ruin wrought as it affected the workers it threw out of employment. The commercial heart of the city was burned out—some 45 business premises being destroyed, many of them the largest of their kind in the province of Munster. The total amount of damage done has been approximately assessed by the City Engineer (in a report to the Cork Corporation) at £2,000,000.

In a City such as Cork it is difficult to estimate with accuracy the number of people who were directly involved in distress by this destruction, but it is safe to take the estimate given in the same report, that close upon 4,000 persons—men, women, and children—had to be relieved by reason of the loss of their employment. The ordinary charitable associations could not cope with the burden thus cast upon them, and the Irish White Cross had to undertake responsibility for their maintenance.

The injury inflicted on the workers of Balbriggan and Cork was but typical of that inflicted on those in many of the other Irish towns “shot up,” burned and looted—Thurles, Templemore, Tralee, Tobercurry, Mallow, etc.—with the consequence that the already large volume of unemployment due to ordinary economic depression was greatly increased, and many thousands of persons who had been able to live in comfort were reduced to poverty and made dependent on charity.

Notwithstanding the vast extent of the havoc and ruin wrought in the South and West in the course of the conflict, the problem presented by the disorder prevailing in Belfast, almost without a

break since July, 1920, was the most serious task that confronted the White Cross. All through its history that city has been the scene of bitter conflict, inspired by religious hate. To-day, in the 20th century, the same inspiring force, intensified by political animosity, has made its name a bye-word wherever tolerance is regarded as a characteristic of civilised men.

In July, 1920, occurred one of those periodical outbursts, and immediately the city became a place where ceased to exist all those civic virtues that usually bind together those who live and work side by side. A policy of expulsion of Catholic workers from the factories and shipyards of the city was set on foot, and in less than three weeks nearly 10,000 workers in Belfast and its vicinity were forcibly prevented from earning their living, and thrown on charity for the support of themselves and their dependents, who numbered about 20,000. Their houses were burned, their property destroyed or looted, with the result that people who, previously, had lived in comparative comfort, were thrown on the world homeless and workless. Were it not for the aid of the Irish White Cross it is only too certain that many of those victims would have perished from hunger.

A peculiarly savage outburst occurred in July, 1921, in the course of which 58 cottages, occupied by Belfast labourers and artisans, were completely destroyed, and the others badly injured, many of them being rendered uninhabitable. Besides these houses, 103 others were wrecked, the furniture destroyed, and everything portable looted—a total of 161 houses of poor labourers and their families.

A vivid account of the suffering then inflicted was written shortly after the occurrence by Mr. C. J. France, the representative of the American Com-

mittee for Relief in Ireland, from which a short extract is here quoted :—

“ The scene of destruction which one witnesses is beyond power of description. One could not believe it possible that 161 houses could be entirely gutted either by fire or by the destruction of every bit of furniture where fires were not actually started.

“ But I actually saw with my own eyes in Cupar Street, Belfast, forty-one houses which had either been completely gutted or partially wrecked. In David Street four houses have been destroyed; in Norfolk Street thirty-six; nine in Lower Urney Street; in Argyle Street seventeen houses in lower division; in Panpark Street nine houses; in Conway Street sixteen houses, and in Antrim Street thirteen houses.

“ To me this destruction was more heart-rending than even the destruction in Cork.

“ In the latter city the monetary value of that which was destroyed was far in excess of the destruction in Belfast. But the destruction in Cork was that of business houses and city blocks. The destruction in Belfast struck a blow at one hundred and sixty-one families. As these families average a husband, wife, and six children, nearly a thousand persons were made homeless in this district in a single day. When one sees, as I saw, that the people in this district are actually as poor as almost any people to be found in any city of the world, and when one realises that the great majority of them were driven from their dwellings, many without clothes to their backs, in the early hours of the morning, their suffering and distress make a deep appeal. While these people possessed little of worldly goods, their furniture, sacred emblems, pictures, and other precious accumulations of a life-time, were all destroyed.

“ Not until we visited the schoolhouses, where many of these refugees had taken shelter, did we realise to the full how utterly denuded of every earthly possession were the poor unfortunate men, women and children. In one school-house we found the women and children, and in another men and boys; so one part of the family were separated from another, with no hope of reunion, and a terrible uncertainty as to what the morrow would bring forth.

“ I was deeply impressed by the generosity of the neighbours of these refugees—the neighbours whose homes had escaped devastation. Every family who had a spare room gave shelter and food and clothing to those driven from their homes. Every day for two weeks these poor people would cook an extra plate of potatoes each noon-day and bring it to the schools to feed the men, women, and children. Many shared their clothing, and others contributed money for tea and bread.”

These are the words of an impartial reporter and competent observer whose judgment was influenced by no bias of partisanship, political or religious—a man interested solely in the alleviation of human suffering. The scene he describes is one to which innumerable parallels might be cited from the recent history of Belfast.

The destruction of houses in this city was carried on throughout the whole period of the disorder, with the consequence that the Society found it necessary to undertake a considerable amount of reconstruction work, in rebuilding and repairing houses to replace those that had been destroyed. A sum of £18,000 was expended on this work, and in one street in the Catholic quarter 42 houses are now practically complete. The new street is called

Amcomri Street, after the code word of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland—a name which appropriately commemorates the beneficent work that the humane spirit of the American people made it possible for the Irish White Cross to execute.

For the relief of the victims large contributions were made from every part of Ireland, and from other countries. Generous as were these offerings, they were soon exhausted in the effort to cope with the distress and misery into which were plunged so many thousands of helpless people. Thus, from the time of its inception the Irish White Cross had to take upon itself responsibility for all the work of relief, and without its aid the consequences to the victims of the savage anarchy of Belfast would have been even more disastrous than they have been.

Belfast was, of course, not the only part of the North-Eastern corner marked by these excesses; its example was followed in other centres—Lisburn, Bangor, Dromore, Banbridge, Newtownards—all suffered in similar fashion. Lisburn, in fact, suffered proportionately greater losses than were suffered by the Catholics of Belfast. From all these places and elsewhere throughout the “six counties” came cries of distress that called for the succour of the charitable, and to all of them the Irish White Cross was responsive to the utmost limit of its resources.

The value of the property destroyed in Belfast amounts, it is computed, to almost £2,000,000, and at Lisburn to about £800,000. These figures, great as they are, represent only a fraction of the total loss caused in those scandalous disorders. There can be no actuarial estimate of the loss caused by the murders and the human suffering of which this city has been the scene since the outbreak in 1920.

It would be impossible to enumerate in detail the various kinds of distress that resulted either directly or indirectly from the war. It is safe to assert that scarcely a branch of Irish life was unaffected. A rough estimate of the havoc wrought may be formed from the claims for compensation heard in the law courts. Judging by the decrees granted, the material loss alone amounted to about £10,000,000. And this figure, which does not take into account the consequential damages resulting from loss of property and interruptions of industry, is certainly a conservative one, inasmuch as many claims could not be heard at all in consequence of the denial by the British Government of the jurisdiction of their own civil courts in cases where the havoc was alleged to have been done by the Crown forces acting with authority. As regards the non-combatants killed, no official figures have been published, but from a survey made by the Department of Home Affairs it is clear that (outside the North-East area) some 500 men, women and children—non-combatants—lost their lives; many more were maimed, many of them permanently disabled, and most of them incapacitated for work for longer or shorter periods. For these and their dependents the Irish White Cross had to provide, and without the aid it rendered, it is indubitable that a much larger number of the Irish people would have perished, or have been rendered permanently unfitted to work for the support of themselves and their dependents.

SECTION V.

POLICY AND METHOD ADOPTED IN AFFORDING RELIEF.

When the Irish White Cross came to deal with the sufferers, it took the parish as the unit of its

action, giving aid within this area through the medium of parish committees. Throughout the country, outside Belfast, where special circumstances rendered a different arrangement desirable, some 600 parish committees were instituted. These committees were in general thoroughly representative of the people in the various parishes in which distress prevailed. As a rule, the local clergy and other responsible people took an active part in their formation and working. The services of the members were voluntary, and this remark applies to practically all the secretaries, despite the fact that in many areas where the distress reached very serious proportions, their work involved a vast amount of labour. Many of those secretaries were people in poor circumstances, who had to work for their living during the day, and who devoted their scanty leisure to the work of helping their suffering neighbours. No secretary was paid a regular salary, and only in a few cases was an *ex gratia* grant of a small sum paid by the central authority to officers, who found it necessary to devote some of their working hours to the work of the committees. No claims for such payment were presented by the secretaries concerned, and in making it the central office desired to offer some slight recompense to people who could ill afford the loss of their wages resulting from their devotion to charitable work on behalf of their afflicted neighbours, and to mark its appreciation of their self-sacrifice.

With those committees originated applications for relief to the Standing Executive in Dublin, and by them, accompanying the applications, were submitted details concerning the nature of the distress, its cause, and other circumstances relative thereto, *e.g.*, the number of dependents of the persons for whom relief was sought, their ages, the manner in which it was proposed to apply any sum granted, etc.

At first every application came up for decision before the Standing Executive Committee, thus enabling that body to gain a full knowledge of the various kinds of relief needed, and to formulate lines of policy and to make rules governing the mode in which grants were to be distributed. Before long the number of cases for decision became so large that to have them dealt with individually by the Standing Executive would have involved undue delay when immediate relief was needed. Accordingly, at an early date, the various types of distress were classified, and the decision as to whether a particular application came under any of the various heads left to a sub-committee appointed *ad hoc*. Later this committee, with the sanction of the Standing Executive, arranged that all ordinary cases should be dealt with by the Director, acting in conjunction with one or more members of the committee of relief—unusual or special cases being still referred to the Standing Executive. This arrangement made it possible to have applications considered with the minimum of delay, and thenceforward this was the procedure followed in every case in which relief was granted, outside the areas of Cork and Belfast.

In Cork, owing to the special circumstances due to the burning of the city, a special Committee, the Cork District Committee of Relief, was authorised to deal with all applications for personal relief within the city and county. The procedure followed in dealing with these applications was identical with that of the Dublin Central Office, the Committee apportioning the relief to the sufferers in its area and receiving from Dublin the necessary funds.

As regards Belfast, the local committee that had been organised to collect for the "Belfast Expelled Workers' Fund" in aid of the victims of the

expulsions of July, 1920, had practically exhausted its funds by the time the Irish White Cross was inaugurated. The latter body had, therefore, to undertake responsibility for the continuance of the relief work, and this it did by paying to the local committee £5,000 per week. This arrangement continued until November, 1921, when, in consequence of the great increase in the number of cases to be relieved, and the newer forms of distress accompanying each new outbreak of violence, it was found necessary to establish a special Belfast White Cross Committee, to supervise the personal relief work in that city and its vicinity, which received the necessary funds from the Dublin Central Office.

Reference has been made to the voluntary character of the work done by the parish committees. The same remark applies to that performed by the members of the General Council, the Standing Executive, and the various sub-committees that it was found necessary to institute. The only expenses incurred were in connection with the staffs in the central office in Dublin, and the offices in Cork and Belfast, where the large amount of distress to be relieved entailed the employment of whole-time officials. The Standing Executive passed a resolution that none of its members should be eligible for any paid office connected with the work of the Society, and also that all administrative expenses should be paid out of money subscribed in Ireland, thus setting free for purposes of relief all the funds that came through the American Committee.

In the Balance Sheet (Section I.) will be found a statement of the administrative expenses, from which it will be apparent that the percentage of the total cost to the amount expended in relief was uncommonly low, amounting to less than one per cent. That the expenses were kept so low is due

to the vast amount of labour voluntarily undertaken and cheerfully carried out in the cause of this great national charity.

During the period of the working of the Irish White Cross distress of all kinds, both connected with and unconnected with the conflict, was so prevalent that it was found necessary to define what was a White Cross case. In this definition two conditions were laid down as necessary :—

(a) There must be actual distress, requiring monetary or other aid, that could not be provided unless the White Cross helped. For instance, if a sufferer's needs could be provided for by his relatives application on his behalf would not be entertained.

(b) The distress must have arisen through the existing strife in Ireland.

In deciding on the applications these two conditions were always strictly adhered to. This policy, doubtless, led to the rejection of many claims for relief that would come within the scope of an ordinary charitable society, but the extent of the distress arising out of the warfare was so vast that it was found necessary to restrict relief in this way, otherwise the funds available would not have covered a tithe of the cases that were specific White Cross cases.

A rough attempt at classification of the kinds of distress that were relieved by the Society, with a summary of the expenditure and the reasons therefor, is here set forth :—

A.—PERSONAL RELIEF.

(a) Relief in form of weekly allowances was granted to dependents of civilians who were

prevented from working at their business through being "on the run" or imprisoned for reasons connected with the political situation, and to the dependents of civilians killed in the course of the struggle.

(b) Similar allowances were made to civilians when for various reasons arising out of the political situation, they were prevented from following their ordinary occupations, *e.g.*, through being forbidden by the British authorities to reside in their home areas, or through being expelled from their work, as happened in Belfast, or through the destruction of their business by the action of Crown forces, pending its re-establishment.

(c) Grants in the form of lump sums were made to persons who had been wounded, where the circumstances made such a payment preferable to a weekly dole, and also in similar circumstances for the purchase of necessaries, such as clothing, bedding, essential furniture, and trade implements, when such articles had been destroyed in the course of the policy of the terror, carried out so extensively against the non-combatant population.

Personal relief (grants and weekly allowances) thus distributed through thirty-two counties of Ireland, the sums varying according to the amount of distress that prevailed, amounted on 31st August, 1922, to £742,187 5s. 5d. The apportionment by provinces of this sum was as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Leinster	.....	.....	86,489	2	8
Ulster	.....	.....	389,320	13	1
Munster	.....	.....	230,775	4	6
Connaught	.....	.....	35,602	5	2
Total			£742,187	5	5

Particulars as to the amounts received for distribution by the different parish committees will be found in Appendix D., in the audited statement of the "Geographical Distribution of Personal Relief to August 31, 1922." The large amounts spent in this manner in Ulster and Munster as compared with the other provinces are mainly due to the calls upon the Society from Belfast and Cork, where, owing to the special circumstances connected with the warfare in both these areas, the distress to be relieved reached appalling proportions.

Of the items coming under the head of personal relief one seems worthy of special mention—the help given through the Society to Irish prisoners and their dependents. Very many of those imprisoned were persons in poor circumstances, and their detention meant acute want for their families. In many cases the prisoners were the sole bread-winners in their homes, and their wages were the only means of support their families had. In other cases their labour was necessary to the working of their farms, and in their absence it had to be substituted by hired help. It is true that frequently the imprisoned labourer was replaced on the farm by voluntary workers from the neighbourhood—and the Irish peasant is always generous in rendering such help. But in the distressed areas such voluntary labour was not always available—there were too many involved in the circumstances that caused the distress, and if the farms were to be worked—as they had to be worked if the families were to be enabled to live—labour had to be hired. In all these cases the prisoner's dependents had to be helped to live in his absence.

Direct help was given with this object by the Irish White Cross in the ordinary course of the relief work carried out through the parish committees; but, in order to prevent overlapping, it was con-

sidered wise to utilise the organisation of the Prisoners Dependents' Fund for the distribution of relief in Dublin and district in the case of the dependents of prisoners. The committee of this organisation co-operated with the Irish White Cross during the whole period of relief, and on the release of the prisoners that followed the Treaty of Peace the sum of £10,000 was entrusted to the committee, to enable it to meet the very pressing needs of hundreds of the released men. Many of them were absolutely penniless, and when the prison doors were opened they found themselves free men indeed, but unable to travel to their homes for want of money to pay their fares. Many of them, too, had to be provided with clothing, not merely for the sake of comfort, but often for the sake of decency. And when finally they did reach their homes, many had still to be supported because they were unable to find work, or because they were unable to work owing to physical breakdown, due to their confinement in the frequently insanitary prisons and internment camps.

The Irish White Cross owes it to itself to emphasise this aspect of its work of relief if only in answer to voices of criticism, honest, perhaps, but certainly ill-informed, that have sometimes found fault with its administration from the National standpoint. It is true that such critics are few, very few; but, like all people anxious to find faults, they have been persistent. That there is no basis for such criticism is clear from the sums spent on the relief of prisoners and their dependents.

B.—RECONSTRUCTION.

While relief in the foregoing forms was necessary all through the period during which the Society functioned, it was always felt that work of a recon-

structive character was desirable. The doles and grants met merely the immediate needs, but they were not sufficient if the sufferers were to be placed in a position to take up the broken threads of their occupations, and to resume the business of making a livelihood for themselves and their dependents. Houses had to be repaired in order to provide the victims of the policy of the fire-brand and the explosive-bomb with a roof to shelter them, and money had to be supplied in order to enable them to replace destroyed stock and farm implements, etc.—in a word, they had to be enabled to earn their bread by their own exertions, and to be free from the taint of charity.

That the Executive Committee had from the beginning contemplated a policy of reconstruction is clear from the first appeal issued by the Society; and with this object in view a special Reconstruction Commission was appointed in April, 1921. In that month the Executive Committee appointed a number of Commissioners “to administer funds intended for use in the form of repayable loans, for the purpose of rebuilding destroyed houses in the devastated areas, and for other works of reconstruction.” The following were the original Commissioners:—The Right Hon. L. O’Neill, Lord Mayor of Dublin; Most Rev. Dr. McRory, Lord Bishop of Down and Connor; Right Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett, K.P., K.C.V.O., President of the I.A.O.S.; Messrs. Stephen O’Mara, Mayor of Limerick; Frank Daly, Chairman of the Cork Harbour Commissioners; James G. Douglas, Thomas Johnson, James McNeill and Miss Louie Bennett.

This Commission was not only representative in character, but was composed of persons who, it was felt, were specially fitted to deal with work of the kind contemplated. Unfortunately, owing to the conditions that prevailed in the spring of 1921, the

Commission was reluctantly forced to the conclusion that no reconstruction work could be then attempted, and consequently, prior to the Truce of July, 1921, very few loans were negotiated. With the Truce it became possible for the Commission to obtain accurate information as to the ruin wrought and the possibility of making it good. Up to that period it had been practically impossible to visit the devastated areas, and no detailed inquiry into the nature of the destruction or the means for its repair could be undertaken. After that date, however, investigators were sent into every county to report on the ruin wrought, and the measures possible for its repair.

Guided by their architects and investigators, the Commissioners proceeded with a policy of reconstruction. As a beginning a sum of £100,000 was set aside for the work. Applications were made by the sufferers for advances for specific purposes, *e.g.*, to enable them to repair portions of their houses or outbuildings, to help them to replace destroyed stocks in shops, or destroyed farm machinery, etc.

The method adopted by the Commissioners in dealing with applications for loans was as follows :— A business committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Johnson, James G. Douglas, James McNeill, Professor Purcell, and R. J. Mortished, with Dr. Kennedy as Secretary. Applications were first considered by this Committee, and reported on to the Commission. After a number of cases of varying character had been dealt with by the Commission, and general rules of guidance laid down, the business committee was given power to deal with applications for loans within certain definite limits, provided they came within the general rules as laid down. Exceptional cases were dealt with by the whole Commission, but very few applications for large sums could be considered owing to the want of adequate funds.

At the time of the setting up of the Commission it was anticipated that a much larger sum than it was found possible to allocate would have been available, and at least £500,000 was expected. Owing, however, to the long period that intervened between the Truce and the signing of the Treaty and release of the prisoners, and to the consequent long period during which ordinary relief doles had to be continued, the sums available became much depleted. In addition, there was the absolute necessity for the continuance of relief in Belfast, which compelled the Executive at the final allocation of the funds to reserve a large sum for this purpose, with the result that it was found impossible to provide for reconstruction on the scale originally contemplated.

The comparative smallness of the amount available—in all the sums allocated to this purpose amounted to £270,493 10s. 0d.—forced the Commission to abandon all plans for larger loans and for the reconstruction of factories and works. This occasioned much unavoidable disappointment, and the Commission desires to express its sincere regret to those who, after much patient waiting, found that their requests could not be granted.

In granting loans, the Commission accepted as security the decrees for compensation obtained by the victims in the civil courts. When such decrees were not available—*e.g.*, in martial law areas, where such cases were withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the civil courts—advances were made after careful examination of the claims that the victims would have made, had the courts been open to hear their cases. The borrower undertook to repay the loan in full, if and when compensation was granted from public sources. Already a Reparation Commission is sitting, and the White Cross expects to have most of the money advanced repaid by this

Commission—in fact, a few of the loans have already been repaid, and the amounts set aside for the work of relief made necessary by the need in Belfast. The reason that the White Cross determined to carry out its work of reconstruction through loans was because it contemplated that any settlement between Ireland and England would involve, as an integral part of the Treaty of Peace, compensation from public sources for the losses sustained in the course of the conflict.

In all some 650 loans were granted; of these the great majority were for the purpose of providing shelter for homeless people. The sums advanced were paid in instalments as the work of rebuilding progressed.

Some idea of the work of the Commission, and of its relation to the general relief work of the Irish White Cross, may be gathered from the following typical cases, as reported on by the investigators for the purposes of the Reconstruction Commission:—

(a) “A widow with one daughter and two sons. The house, together with furniture, outbuildings, and their contents—hay, farm implements, etc.—destroyed by British forces. The family are living in a ruined stable. They ask for a loan of £400, which they purpose to use in putting the house and necessary outbuildings in repair before the winter, and to provide the necessary implements for working their farm. They were comfortable, substantial farmers, and are now reduced to poverty.” A loan of £300 was granted.

(b) “The dwellinghouse and furniture entirely destroyed by the military. Since then the father has lost his reason; one daughter is an invalid; one son is in prison, and three others could not reside at home through fear of arrest. The

military did not permit the neighbours to work the farm in the absence of the sons. One man who did so was shot and bayoneted by Crown forces. A loan of from £300 to £400 would be necessary to re-roof and repair the house, the walls of which are standing." A loan of £350 was granted.

(c) "An aged man, bent double with rheumatism, with a wife, two daughters and son. Their dwellinghouse was blown up in May, 1921. So great was the force of the explosion that the walls are in ruins, in some places to the very foundations. There is immediate necessity to provide these people with shelter for the winter." Loan of £300 was granted.

(d) "A co-operative creamery, used by a number of small farmers, was destroyed by fire, and its machinery rendered useless. The farmers have suffered individually during the terror, and are consequently unable to provide the funds for its reconstruction. A decree for £3,000 compensation has been granted by the courts, but there is no immediate prospect of payment, and the loss of the creamery is a very severe blow to the economic welfare of the community generally. A loan of £1,000 would enable them to re-start the creamery, and would relieve the White Cross of the necessity of granting personal relief to many who at present are in receipt of weekly doles." Loan of £1,000 granted.

(e) "A large firm, employing a large number of hands, was practically completely destroyed. A decree for £45,000 has been granted by the courts. It is estimated that a sum of £13,000 would enable the owners to re-open their business, and thus give employment to very many, who otherwise must be supported by the Irish White Cross."

In this case the White Cross advanced £3,000, and the remaining £10,000 was borrowed from the bank.

All of these cases, except the last, may be taken as typical, and hundreds of similar cases might be cited. The last is one of the few cases in which the Commission was able to sanction a large loan.

In Appendix E will be found a schedule setting forth the geographical distribution of the money expended in the work of reconstruction.

[N.B.—In addition to the general investigation made for the purposes of the Reconstruction Commission, a special detailed survey of the material destruction done throughout the country was carried out at the request of the late Mr. Collins, who asked for this information during the peace negotiations with the British Government.]

C.—SPECIALISED FORMS OF RELIEF.

(a) Feeding of School Children.

(b) Infant Welfare Societies.

(c) Provision of means of employment through work-rooms or otherwise where industries had been destroyed, with the object of affording employment to persons who would otherwise have to receive personal relief.

(d) Aid given where economic distress prevailed, though not directly traceable to the action of Crown forces, but indirectly connected with such action, *e.g.*, in isolated areas such as Dingle. Also in many districts along the Western seaboard—Donegal, Mayo, Connemara, Kerry.

(e) Children's Fund.

(f) Grants of comparatively large sums to children's hospitals and hostels for persons wounded or suffering from shock, who, in the straitened circumstances of such hospitals and houses, due to the war, would be otherwise uncared for.

The following are the amounts expended on these various forms of specialised relief :—

(a) To the feeding of school children £3,386 17s. 0d. was devoted. By way of a beginning, a contribution of £1,000 was made to the Dublin Corporation School Meals Committee. Later the Society authorised that Committee to provide the children of necessitous parents with meals during the school holidays, undertaking to be responsible for the cost, which was estimated to amount to £991. It also provided a sum of £500 for improvement in the quality and quantity of the food supplied where such food was admittedly unsatisfactory. This was a most needed action, inasmuch as the only food it was found possible to supply in many of the schools in the slum areas was frequently only an unsubstantial meal of bread and cocoa—a meal wholly inadequate for growing children who came to school hungry from their poverty-stricken homes. The balance was expended in other areas where similar need for such relief existed. In addition to the figures mentioned above as spent on School Meals, a further sum of £13,000 has been allocated since 31st March, 1922, for the feeding and clothing of School Children in the poverty-stricken areas along the west coast, where through the Society clothes have been supplied to some 2,000 children.

(b) To the support of Infant Welfare Societies the sum of £359 10s. 0d. was contributed.

Through this sum milk was enabled to be supplied for the infants of necessitous parents, and provision made for the wants of expectant and nursing mothers in needy circumstances. These societies are maintained by charitable subscriptions, supplemented (as in Dublin) by grants of small sums from the Corporation. Owing to the dislocation of the finances of the local authorities, these grants, much as they were needed, could not be paid. The grants made through the Irish White Cross were an important factor in allowing them to continue their beneficent work, and certainly contributed to the preservation of many a child or mother who, without them, doubtless, would be among the victims of the Irish war.

(c) On the financing of efforts to provide employment in areas where industries had been destroyed, the sum of £4,608 15s. 1d. was spent. Of this sum £2,046 13s. 2d. was devoted to the knitting industry in Balbriggan, where the destruction of a hosiery factory had left a large number of persons without employment; £72 3s. 3d. was spent on the provision of means for the continuance of cottage industries where the former plant had been destroyed; £2,489 18s. 8d. was spent on financing workroom schemes. In these workrooms employment was afforded to many who otherwise would have been included among the recipients of Irish White Cross relief in the form of weekly doles. Moreover, many dependents of those who had lost their lives, or were otherwise sufferers in the conflict, were enabled through them to learn a trade, which now renders them self-supporting.

The workrooms in Dublin were under the direction of a Committee, the Chairman of which

was Madame Gonne-McBride. They started with some 10 workers; this number gradually increased to about 70. All were paid the standard Trade Union wage obtaining in their particular occupation, and worked under the usual Trade Union conditions. The work done in these rooms embraced all departments of needlework in connection with women's and children's and youth's garments. Expert cutters were employed, and the work turned out compared well in respect of finish and general workmanship with anything of the same type produced in the regular business concerns of the city. At the Aonach—a Christmas fair and exhibition of Irish products—held at the Dublin Mansion House in December, 1921, the display from the Dublin White Cross Workrooms attracted much attention.

Besides those who found employment in the rooms while residing in Dublin, some of the unemployed embroidresses and seamstresses in the centres of the cottage industries were provided through them with work in their homes, where they embroidered the finished articles sent to them from Dublin, receiving the usual rate of pay.

(d) In many parts of the western seaboard, from Donegal in the North to Kerry in the South, severe economic distress is a periodical visitant, owing to the infertility of the soil and the lack of those openings for labour that elsewhere find employment for large numbers of the population. The problem presented by those areas has long occupied the attention of statesmen and social workers. They are officially known as "Congested Districts," after the title of the Act of the British Parliament of 1891, which made some attempt to grapple with the difficulties arising from the almost chronic distress that prevails within them.

At the best, the measures hitherto taken have been no better than palliative; distress recurs with an almost fatal periodicity, and the menace of famine is never far distant. The lives of the inhabitants are a never-ending struggle with a nature that, bounteous in the scenic splendour of sea and land and sky, is niggard in all that relates to the necessities of life. For of the people of these districts the poet's words are true in their most literal sense—they "force a churlish soil for scanty bread."

The small holdings on which the people are crowded are in general of the type described as uneconomic, and the majority of them do not provide even the physical basis of a decent standard of living, much less of comfort. The potato crop, the main source of sustenance of the people, is ever liable to failure, and when this happens starvation comes near—starvation in the actual sense of the word, the painful, lingering death from hunger. A few local industries are carried out as a supplement to such agriculture as the nature of the soil renders possible, *e.g.*, kelp burning, the cutting and saving of turf for sale outside the borders, fishing on a small scale along the storm-swept coasts, here and there the weaving of home-spun yarns.

Even at the best of times a large proportion of those people would suffer from hunger, were it not that their scanty resources are eked out by the wages the younger people earn by migratory labour in the agricultural districts in other parts of Ireland, and in England and Scotland. During the time of conflict this supplement to their resources was no longer possible, and, moreover, some parts of these areas were subjected, as part of the terror, to a rigorous blockade, which isolated them from the world without. These factors, combined with one

of the periodical failures of the potato crop, reduced some parts of these districts, notably Connemara and Donegal, to actual famine. Men and women and children were actually dying from want of food, aggravated by disease, that always accompanies such conditions of life; many of these victims, too, had suffered through the killings, maimings, burnings, the ordinary incidents of the terror that had swept through the whole country.

There was no question but that relief work in those afflicted areas was a duty proper for the Irish White Cross to undertake. Careful investigation was made, and a sum of £20,000 was allocated for the provision of the barest necessities of life—food and clothing and seed—for the victims of niggard nature and the incidents of the Irish war. With this sum, supplemented by funds raised throughout the country by charitable institutions for this specific purpose, supplies of food—potatoes and meal—were made available for the starving people at various distributing centres. Besides this, special provision was made for the care of the children, and £13,000 was devoted, as already mentioned, to the feeding and clothing of children in the schools.

It is true that the sum allocated to meet the distress in those regions was but small, but it must be remembered that the White Cross funds were then practically exhausted in relieving the wants of the people throughout the country. Small as the sum was, nevertheless it cannot be doubted that it has preserved the lives of many who, without it, would have died from famine and its attendant pestilence.

(e) £150,000 has been set aside as a "Children's Fund," to provide for children whose parents have been killed in the course of the struggle, and have left them unprovided for. This sum is being administered by a special committee, which

is acting under the supervision of the Trustees of the Irish White Cross. The general intention is to provide for the education and upbringing of these orphans, in a manner that shall be, at least, not inferior to that in which they would have been brought up had their fathers been left to them.

The Committee has been investigating the circumstances of those "orphans of the war." In Appendix F. will be found the names of the members of the Committee. The task that devolves upon it is one that calls for care and judgment; to those that know them the names of its members are a sufficient warrant that those qualities will not be lacking when they come to close quarters with their difficult and delicate task.

(f) On Children's Hospitals £3,673 16s. 4d. was expended—this apart altogether from sums paid to hospitals for the care of wounded persons, which payments came under the head of "personal relief."

Under this head may be mentioned the women and children suffering from shock or other nervous and physical disorders occasioned by the wracking experiences many of them underwent in the course of the war. In many parts of Ireland the common incidents of the terror, the indiscriminate shootings, the explosions, the irruptions of bands of ruffians into houses at dead of night, the burnings of homes and the driving of the inhabitants into the darkness, often clad only in their night attire, was frequently attended, when actual death did not ensue, by consequences very serious to the mental and physical health of the victims of these outrages. Children and women, especially expectant or nursing mothers, suffered greatly in health, many of them, indeed, being

permanently injured. For the worst cases it was found necessary to provide a centre where they would be cared for, and new and quieter surroundings in which they might forget the terrors to which they had been exposed.

An ideal place for recuperation was found in the Convent Hostel at Baldoyle, near Dublin. The Irish White Cross undertook the responsibility of paying the expenses of those who were sent to the Hostel. Since it was found that the patients were greatly benefited by their stay there, it was decided to provide the funds necessary to enlarge the equipment of the Hostel, and so make possible the accommodation of larger numbers of patients. The unanimous testimony of these—patients or visitors—who are in a position to speak of the effects on the sufferers of their stay there, is that the money expended was expended to good purpose, and that many are now restored to health who, without the treatment they were thus enabled to receive, might be permanent invalids.

Another institution helped by the Irish White Cross, to the great benefit of the suffering children of the poor of Dublin, was the Infant Hospital at Charlemont Street, Dublin. To it the Society contributed the sum of £1,600, to enable the Board to make such improvements and extensions as the growing calls upon it rendered necessary.

A grant of £1,000 was also made to the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin, to assist the Hospital to provide meals for children.

SECTION VI.

CHECKS ON THE EXPENDITURE OF THE
FUNDS FOR RELIEF.

From the beginning of its operations the Irish White Cross, through its Standing Committee, took steps to ensure the careful management of the funds entrusted to it for administration. Its books were constantly audited by a firm of public Auditors, and receipts and disbursements recorded and checked, so that at any moment it was possible to ascertain how its finances stood.

On the Central Office in Dublin fell the task of examining all applications for personal relief from all parts of Ireland outside Cork and Belfast, where special local committees acted for their respective areas, as Dublin acted for the rest of Ireland, receiving through the Dublin offices the sums needed for the relief work conducted by them. Even in these areas all loans for reconstruction work were made by the Central Office, to which applications were sent direct, the sums advanced being thence sent to the applicants direct.

As has been said in a previous section, applications for personal relief originated with the parish committees, who, guided by their knowledge of local circumstances, were in a position to guarantee the genuineness of all applications sent by them to the central office. As a general rule, it was found that the voucher of these committees could be relied on, for their members were persons of responsible positions, anxious to conserve as much as possible the funds available for relief of the needs of the Irish people in general, and not merely of those in their own localities.

When the Truce of July, 1921, made it possible for the central office to examine, through its investigators, the working of the various committees, it was found that in general but little change had to be made in the recommendations they had sent forward.

The Central Committee fixed as its standard scale for personal relief a weekly sum of 10s. for each adult, and 5s. for each child under 16 years of age. In certain cases variation was permitted in this rate, *e.g.*, where the person relieved was an adult living alone, an increase in the rate could be made, as it was clear that what would suffice for the support of such a sufferer when living with his family would be inadequate when he lived alone. Again, where sufferers had some resources left, but inadequate for their support, the rates allowed were less than the standard.

The parish committee, in making application for relief for the sufferers, filled in special forms, on which were entered their names and all relevant circumstances, which forms were then transmitted to Dublin, to be decided on by the relief sub-committee there. The applications were renewable monthly, and the necessary funds sent to each committee without delay. The parish secretary paid to each person the sum granted to him, and obtained his signed receipt, which was retained for inspection by the agents of the central office. Thus every precaution was taken to ensure that there should be no possibility of fraud or other abuse in connection with the money allocated for this work of relief.

With regard to the work of the Reconstruction Commission, advances for reconstruction were in no case made without careful investigation by experts (engineers and architects) into all the circum-

stances. Each applicant had not only to show that his case came within the definition of what was a White Cross case; he had also to specify the purpose for which he sought the advance, and to satisfy the experts who advised the Reconstruction Commission. It was part of the duty of these experts to advise applicants as to the best manner in which the advance, if made, could be employed, and where houses had to be repaired or replaced they took into account all the circumstances in relation to existing portions of the ruined buildings and to local labour and material that would allow of the work being done with the greatest economy. In considering each application, the Reconstruction Commission gave special attention to possible economic advantage to the district that might result from granting the advance, *e.g.*, if the applicant were enabled thereby to resume business, work would be available for persons who would otherwise have to be supported by White Cross funds. Here, too, every possible precaution was taken to ensure the right use of the funds available for this branch of the Society's efforts, and it cannot be questioned that the work of the Reconstruction Commission was the most permanently useful part of its activities, and that it is a monument that will last long after the Society has ceased to function.

As regards the sum expended on relief work of other kinds, such as the grants for the feeding of children and in aid of schemes for the promotion of employment, the contributions to the Prisoners Dependents' Fund, etc., they were given only after the closest investigation by the Society into the circumstances in each case. As they were distributed through public or quasi-public bodies, there was ample reason for knowing that they were devoted solely to the purposes for which they were allocated by the Society.

No complaint has ever been made that any money of the Irish White Cross has been misapplied, in the sense that it has failed to reach those for whom it was granted. It is, therefore, only due to the committees, central and local, and to the persons concerned in making these grants, or handing them on to those for whom they were intended, to put it on record that they have shown themselves animated by a high sense of duty in accord with their positions as trustees, in a certain sense, of the public weal. Special mention is here due of the unselfish and untiring labours of the many women throughout Ireland, and particularly of those of the Dublin Committee of Relief, who were unsparing of time and toil in bringing relief to the afflicted. In a difficult and dangerous time these persons took upon themselves the task of helping to relieve thousands of sufferers, the great majority of them without fee or reward of any kind other than the consciousness of duty done, and if the sufferings of their countrymen have been alleviated by the work of the Irish White Cross—as they have been—it is largely due to the devotion of so many voluntary workers in the cause of charity.

SECTION VII.

TRIBUTES TO THE WORK OF THE IRISH WHITE CROSS AND OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN IRELAND.

The following is an extract from the famous letter from his late Holiness, Pope Benedict XV., to His Eminence Cardinal Logue, accompanying a munificent contribution to the funds of the Society:—

“We have heard with pleasure that you, our beloved son, impelled by the charity that suffers no

delay, and commands us to lay aside all differences of parties and opinions, and bring aid to the afflicted and the needy, have been at pains to establish, and zealous to foster, an association known as the White Cross, the object of which is to collect funds for the relief of those in distress in Ireland through the devastation of property or other acts of violence. It is no less a source of joy to us that many others, differing in religion and nationality, have united with you in this union of love, and that to your united appeal great numbers of generous men, not merely from Ireland, but from other nations, have given an enthusiastic response. And . . . we forward, as a token of our affection for your people, so hard-pressed, 200,000 Italian lire, and we trust that this sum will do something to relieve their distress."

The Irish Hierarchy, meeting at Maynooth, June 22, 1921, in a pronouncement dealing with the general condition of affairs in Ireland, expressed warm approval of the White Cross, and exhorted the priests and people to give the Society their support.

The part of the pronouncement dealing with the White Cross is as follows :—

"Owing to the barbarous destruction of life and property many thousands have been reduced to a condition of pitiable destitution. To alleviate distress the White Cross Association, consisting of members differing in religious and political views, has been formed, and is doing excellent work.

"We exhort our priests and people to subscribe to its funds as generously as their means will allow.

"We avail ourselves of this occasion to express our gratitude to all who have come to our assistance, and especially to the American people for their inexhaustible benevolence."

The following are messages sent by members of the Irish Hierarchy to the Society (September, 1921), commending it for its beneficent work :—

“It affords me the greatest pleasure to bear grateful testimony to the splendid work for the relief of distress in Ireland by the clergy and people of the United States.

“Much of the money for the Irish White Cross has been sent through me; and each remittance left me in delighted admiration of the lavish charity of the American people. As a specimen of this magnificent charity I received up to £25,000 from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia alone. The remittances from the other Dioceses were on a corresponding scale.”

(Signed),

✠ MICHAEL, CARDINAL LOGUE.

“Ireland owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to the American people for the practical sympathy and marvellous generosity with which they have subscribed such large sums to the White Cross for reconstruction in Ireland, and particularly for helping so materially the re-establishing and building up of industries obliged to close down, upon which industries depend to such a degree the work and life of our people.”

✠ EDWARD J. BYRNE,

Archbishop-elect of Dublin.

“The Irish people are deeply grateful to the generous people of America, who have so largely contributed to the Irish White Cross. The need has been and still is great. Many valuable lives have been lost, towns have been wrecked, happy homes have

been destroyed, creameries have been burned, bread-winners have been imprisoned, many people have been thrown out of employment. Like other parts of the country, the Archdiocese of Cashel has suffered severely.

"Thanks to the beneficence of the White Cross much distress has been relieved amongst us. Donations have been given to deserving ones; loans have been granted for the rebuilding of homes. The Archdiocese has contributed generously to the Irish White Cross, but without the aid of our American friends it is impossible to meet all urgent needs."

(Signed),

✠ J. M. HARTY,

Archbishop of Cashel.

"The distribution of White Cross funds has given much relief in this Archdiocese. The people are most grateful for American generosity."

(Signed),

✠ THOMAS P. GILMARTIN,

Archbishop of Tuam.

"The White Cross has worked admirably in relieving the special distress of these trying times. There was not so much need for its solicitude in this diocese as in some other parts of Ireland, but what it had to do it did with earnest care after thorough investigation, well appreciating the urgency of the call. In the long record of her sympathy with Ireland never did America show herself more generous than during this year. A strong committee of old colonists stock came over from the States to report on the want and misery caused

by devastation and imprisonment. The advent of that highly influential body drew at once a warm response from the Chief Magistrate of the American people, and since then a stream of generous American aid has never ceased to flow. Until our nation is well on its feet the assistance will be greatly needed. May Providence ever give and preserve to America the plenty that enables the great Republic to stand by every people in their day of need."

(Signed),

✠ PATRICK O'DONNELL,

Bishop of Raphoe.

"In the hour of our need our country, yielding to a natural impulse, has even in the recent past made her appeal to one nation above and before every other, and at no time has she known that great nation to turn a deaf ear. Ever since the rise of the great Republic of the West Ireland has been bound to the United States by a bond of friendship, of gratitude and unfailing affection. And surely there never has been an occasion in the past which called for a display of those feelings so loudly and so eloquently as do the most recent benefactions of the American people. Here, in our own diocese of Kerry, our persecuted people have good reason to remember and be grateful for the timely help which has enabled not a few of them to keep body and soul together, after they had seen their homes reduced to ashes, their women ill-treated, their men folk cruelly done to death. And even now, in time of truce, though the actual ill-usage has, for the most part, come to an end, the consequences of past ill-usage and persecution still remain. In many parts of our diocese, especially along the seaboard,

distress is rife, and, but for the assistance rendered by the American Committee for Relief in Ireland through the agency of the Irish White Cross, starvation in many cases seemed absolutely inevitable. During the past terrible year fishing communities have found it utterly impossible to ply their trade. Only at the peril of their lives could men venture to sea. All forms of transport were held up. And even when railway transport was again restored, the charges were so exorbitant as to make any profit impossible. It is greatly to be feared that the coming winter will find our poor people utterly unprepared to meet the severities of that season, and charitable persons who have gone into the homes of our people, and made themselves thoroughly acquainted with their dire need, are convinced that, unless effective and timely measures are concerted and help secured, the results for our poor people will be most deplorable."

(Signed),

✠ CHARLES O'SULLIVAN,
Bishop of Kerry.

"We are very grateful for American aid."

(Signed),

✠ LAURENCE GAUGHRAN,
Bishop of Meath.

"The White Cross is doing excellent and much-needed work in this Diocese of Ossory in relieving distress caused by the recent disturbed condition of the country. For this Ireland must feel ever

grateful to their countrymen in America, and to the kind-hearted and generous people generally of the United States."

(Signed),

✠ ABRAHAM BROWNRIGG,

Bishop of Ossory.

"I have advised all the Priests of this Diocese to establish a Branch of the White Cross in their several parishes. . . .

"We in Ireland are indebted to charitable, noble America for what success we have been able to command up to the present, and what we hope we shall achieve in the future. I offer her my high appreciation and heartfelt thanks, and pray she may ever be the happy nation that she is, and the Teacher of Europe, as well as its earthly saviour."

(Signed),

✠ J. HOARE,

Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.

"What America has done for relief of distress is gratefully appreciated here."

(Signed),

✠ PATRICK FINEGAN,

Bishop of Kilmore.

"In union with all the other Irish Bishops, assembled in general meeting last June, I have expressed the warmest commendation of the White Cross for its wise and honest administration of the charitable funds entrusted to it for distribution. Experience adds to my appreciation of its work. The White Cross has still much charitable work to

do, and is doing it from week to week. The destitution in Ireland, mainly the result of recent awful happenings, is still widespread. The generous American people have found in the White Cross a safe and efficient agency for the distribution of their magnificent charity to the much-suffering Irish poor."

(Signed),

✠ ROBERT BROWNE,
Bishop of Cloyne.

"In a brief message I cannot adequately express my appreciation of, and gratitude for, the generous and constant help extended by our friends in America to the Catholic people of this Diocese of Dromore. Victims of insensate fanaticism and bigotry, driven from their means of livelihood thirteen months ago, and still excluded from it by Orange mobs, hundreds of workers and their families have been saved from starvation by means of the contributions received from America. At times the resources seemed precarious, though they never failed. Now all anxiety is removed through the well-organised methods of the White Cross."

✠ EDWARD MULHERN,
Bishop of Dromore.

"The years 1920 and 1921 will be years ever memorable in our history for the unavailing efforts of a mighty power to crush in a sea of blood and in red ruin Ireland's just aspiration for liberty, but more memorable still for the effective measures taken by the great liberty-loving people of America to mitigate the horrors of the struggle, to assuage

the sorrow of the sufferers, and to undo, so far as possible, the havoc wrought. Ireland's heroic fight for freedom appealed mightily to the great heart of America, and won a noble response in eloquent advocacy of our cause, in sustained practical sympathy with our aims, and in unstinted support for our sufferers.

“It is impossible to exaggerate the need and value of the relief which American aid, so generously given to the White Cross, brought to the many thousands despoiled of their means of existence, and rendered homeless and houseless by the ruthless methods employed against them; and to those others—many thousands—denied even the right to work, unless at the sacrifice of their religious and national convictions.

“Every Irish heart that beats true to the cause of Irish liberty, every heart which is not dead to sentiments of right and justice, is aglow with admiration and gratitude for America's well-sustained mighty effort to relieve the distressed and comfort the afflicted.

“Great things have been done, greater remain to do. Winter with its rigours approaches. Thousands still await a shelter against its storms, and more thousands still cry for bread.

“Their cry will not go unheeded. As long as America stands they will not be allowed to fall victims to a cruel persecution. America, ever responsive to the cry of suffering humanity everywhere, will assuredly continue to hearken to Ireland's call for aid.”

(Signed),

✠ P. McKENNA,

Bishop of Clogher.

Some extracts follow from priests in the afflicted areas, and from the recipients of relief; these are valuable as first-hand testimony to the beneficial nature of the work:—

“Please accept my willing testimony to the invaluable work done in this parish by the Irish White Cross. By the mercy of God this parish came off comparatively scathless. From November, 1920, to March, 1921, we had, it is true, many nightly incursions of lorry-borne warriors into a peaceful little town. They looted at least three business houses, taking away £1,000 worth in one case and £400 in another, but they considerably abstained from burning down the houses. However, on one dreadful night in November, the horrors of which will never leave my memory, they took two gentle, inoffensive little boys from their beds and riddled them with bullets. At some risk I and another priest prepared one of them for death in the hour or two he lingered, and helped to carry the dead body of the other (his head had been almost blown away) back into his father’s house. The miscreants tried to get two others but they escaped. One of these two was father of a family of six, the eldest only ten. He escaped by the back door in his night clothes, and had to fly from the district. His hard lot brought double pneumonia on him, but he recovered. During this time his wife and children would have starved had not the White Cross sent funds for their support in response to every appeal we made in their behalf.

“The other victims were in better circumstances, and our local committee did not feel it necessary to invoke the aid of the White Cross.

“To say we are grateful to the White Cross, and

to those who supplied it with funds for its Christian work, is a very feeble way of expressing what we feel.

“ P. CANON LYONS, P.P.,
“ Ardee, Co. Louth.”

“ When the Catholic village here was looted and burned by armed Auxiliaries, aided by armed police from a neighbouring station, twelve months ago, and the full-grown male inhabitants were driven out in terror, I applied to your Society at the Shelbourne Hotel for financial assistance, which, after some necessary formalities were complied with, came in due course. From the beginning good neighbours threw open their doors to the homeless, and shared with them their daily bread, with a spirit worthy of the early Christians, so that American generosity was a relief to all, and we all gratefully acknowledge the fact.

“ D. GORMLEY, P.P.,
“ Lakefield, Co. Fermanagh.”

“ Well do you call the work of the ‘ White Cross ’ humanitarian, for nobly has it striven to make amends for the thousands of inhuman deeds perpetrated against the Irish people.

“ The imprisonment and loss of so many of the youths of Ireland was a big economic blow ; yet, on top of that, if life was to be worth living, parcels of food, clothes, etc., had to be provided for prisoners. And even the poorest did their best in this respect. But the burden was becoming too

heavy when your organisation came along and shouldered the heavy weight. And your help was such a grand scheme that it never bore the taint of alms to a beggar, but uplifted and heartened the receivers.

“ May God bless the generous hearts that suggested the idea, and the generous help that carried it out.

“ PHILIP MULLIGAN, P.P.,
“ Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.”

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE ENNISTYMON PARISH
COMMITTEE.

“ ‘ That the thanks of the members of this Committee be conveyed to the American Committee for Relief in Ireland for the assistance given to the victims of the Irish War in this parish.’

“ Apart from the sums granted to persons to rebuild houses destroyed by the Crown forces as reprisals, this Committee has obtained from the Irish White Cross, and paid to the victims to this date, the sum of £820.

“ Amongst those on the relief list are the widow of a young man killed in September, 1920, during reprisals in the town, and her two young children; the wives of five men ‘ on the run ’—one having six young children, one five, one four, and two three each, and having no other means to support them; and the wife of a man interned for over twelve months, with her two young children.

“ A. J. NESTOR, P.P., V.F., Chairman.

“ JOSEPH GRIFFEY, Secretary.”

“ I think it is due to our American friends that I should write and, on behalf of three families in the parish—victims of the reign of terror—thank you for the prompt and generous aid afforded them. One family in particular, that of Mrs. O’Doherty, were it not for your help, would have been in very straitened circumstances. Over twelve months ago her daughter, standing at her own door, had both her legs broken by a rifle ball fired by a policeman. In April last her son, the only bread-winner of the family, was taken out of his bed, and, with two other boys, shot dead by an Orange murder gang, said locally to have been chiefly Ulster Special Constables. A post-mortem revealed fifteen bullet wounds. This was a case of hardship in which your generous assistance was especially opportune.

“ JAMES E. McKENNA, P.P.,

“ Dromore, Co. Tyrone.”

“ The Kenmare Parish Committee of the White Cross has pleasure in testifying to the valuable assistance it received from the Dublin Central Committee. It received more than £450, and this was distributed among about sixty selected applicants, in amounts varying from £3 to £25. Though the amounts look small, the assistance and encouragement they gave were much beyond their face-value.

“ (Signed),

“ P. J. MARSHALL, P.P., V.P.,

“ Chairman of Committee.

“ E. O’CONNOR, C.C.,

“ Secretary.”

“I have to thank the Irish White Cross for some timely aid they sent us last spring for the purchase of seeds. Without this aid many a poor deserving farmer would have been obliged to allow his land to go fallow for want of seed. In addition to this sum we received two other contributions for the relief of the destitute needy poor of the district. My Committee are extremely grateful for those kindly aids, and have asked me to convey to the American Committee their sincere and grateful thanks.

“M. McHUGH, P.P.,

“Carna, Co. Galway.”

“The total sum received in this parish towards the relief of distress was £2,334. The working expenses were a trifle. There were no legal expenses and no salaried workers on the local Committee.

“From the information at my disposal, I am fully satisfied that the funds were distributed with absolute impartiality.

“Your American contributors, to whom we are immensely grateful, may rest assured that the funds entrusted to us by their representatives in Ireland have been distributed in accordance with their wishes.

“J. P. McDONNELL,

“The Presbytery, Dingle, Co. Kerry.”

“Last week we were fortunate recipients of the sum of £333 odd from the Irish White Cross on behalf of some of my parishioners. They had suffered very seriously in consequence of the war, so much so that, without any exaggeration whatsoever, I dare state in plain language that they were

half starved with hunger. Your donation for them has been a real blessing; but unfortunately there are about one hundred other householders in the same localities who are equally destitute. These, and many others, would ere now have died of starvation were it not for the assistance received from private sources. In many cases a family have received two or three cakes of bread from a fairly independent farmer living at a distance. Sometimes a starving family would receive a basket of potatoes from a similar source; sometimes I would give £3 or £4 in the week to be distributed where most required. In that way the people have hitherto managed to subsist. They have consumed in most cases their seed potatoes.

“The majority of those who are now in such dire distress are the owners of half-reclaimed patches, lying along the slope of mountain in an excessively congested district, which will each maintain a miserable specimen of a cow or two. The male members of the family become migratory labourers for a great portion of the year, at the end of which time they return with £20 or £30 or £40, which they hand over to the neighbouring little shopkeeper, who gave them goods on credit during the preceding year. Once the account books are thus cleared they will as before obtain goods on credit for the ensuing year. During the war these poor householders were, through the activities of the Black and Tans, etc., unable to pay their debts to the local shopkeepers, and, consequently, could obtain no credit. Up to the present moment they could obtain no employment, and hence the semi-starvation. If you can come to their aid please do so, and God will reward you. The case is pressing.

“D. MURPHY, P.P.,

“Castlemaine, Co. Kerry.”

“ On behalf of the Inver White Cross Committee, I beg to convey to you and your associates our profound sense of gratitude for the splendid material and moral assistance we have been enabled to render, through the instrumentality of your excellent Committee, to the victims of the late war of repression and their dependents here in the Parish of Inver. No words of mine can convey in any adequate measure our deep feeling of gratitude to the great American Nation, which has surpassed itself in generosity throughout the terrible and prolonged ordeal through which we have passed.

“ Out of a total of £500 or thereabouts allocated to us we were enabled to make fair provision to meet the immediate demands of the cases specified. Generally speaking, we have granted one pound per week in each case to the dependents of the internees and the unemployed. One man, whose horse was shot by the military, had it replaced. Another, whose motor car was commandeered and dismantled, was supplied with a jaunting car. Allowance was made in a few cases for bed-clothing and personal clothing destroyed, and two new sewing machines provided. All are now restored to their old homes, and we trust, under the new Government, they will be able to repair their shattered fortunes in the near future. As not coming within the scope of our Committee, I have made no mention of £1,500 or thereabouts allocated to the reconstruction of the Inver Creamery, which is now in full working order.

“ C. KENNEDY, P.P.,

“ Parochial House,

“ Rosses, Co. Donegal.”

“On behalf of the Branch of the Irish White Cross in this parish, and on behalf of the parish generally, I wish to thank the American Committee for Relief in Ireland for the helping hand extended to us for the past few months.

“We did not suffer directly through the action of the British troops in destruction of life and property. But, as this is a fishing district, the action of the British Government in closing down the Dingle Railway, and in not allowing supplies—even food—into the district, interfered very seriously with the industry, and led to many cases of hardship and want.

“The money given us through the White Cross was expended nearly altogether in giving employment on much needed local works such as improvement of boat slips, making approach roads, which had been thrown out of contract by local Councils for want of funds. Cases of direct relief were very few, such as poor women who had nobody to work for them or poor men unable to work.

“I am sure the humanity and kind sympathy manifested by the Great American Nation, in coming to Ireland’s aid in her great struggle for freedom, will not be the least of her glories when she recounts her efforts throughout the world in behalf of that liberty with which her name will always be associated.

“F. GRIFFIN, P.P.,

“Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry.”

“The Committee of the White Cross Association in the Parish of Aghagower, Co. Mayo, beg respectfully to thank the central body of the Association for the gracious help accorded to the

poor and suffering of the parishioners, and to assure them that much additional suffering has been obviated by the timely assistance they have given.

“That God may mercifully grant to the donors and administrators His choicest gifts and blessings is the constant prayer of all here.

“JOHN FLANNERY, P.P.,

“Aughagower, Westport.”

“My people are nearly all small farmers, and used to hardship, and so when their houses were burned to ashes they were able to adapt themselves to their altered circumstances more easily than others. They turned the barns into dwelling-houses, or adopted some similar contrivance, and waited in patience for the day that would witness the liberation of the country from the incendiaries. Realising the more pressing needs of others on the funds of the White Cross, the only claim they made for themselves was for such assistance as would replace the necessary household utensils that were burned or destroyed. This was immediately forthcoming, and helped immensely in alleviating their sufferings.

“There were four houses burned to the ground in this small parish and one wrecked. There were also several cases of unmentionable and brutal cruelty, and torture of flogging, stripping people naked, placing them under stones on cold nights, etc.

“With grateful thanks to the White Cross.

“M. FAHY, P.P.,

“Kinvara, Co. Galway.”

“ I have delayed up to the present that I might be able to acknowledge the last generous subscription, £50 (a few days ago), of your American Committee for Relief in Ireland, towards the support of those dependent on their bread-winners ‘interned’ on account of their political principles. The very generous sum given our Committee for the support and relief of those dependent sufferers amounts to £437 5s. 0d. Only those acquainted with the circumstances can have any idea of the comfort and happiness your princely donations from month to month brought to those desolate, starving wives and children.

“ May God bless and reward you, and all your noble assistants, in averting a calamity, such as my words could not express, from the poor, virtuous, helpless dependents of the noble, brave, and patriotic internees of this Parish of Ardara, Co. Donegal.

“ JOHN CANON O'DOHERTY, P.P.,
“ Ardara, Co. Donegal.”

“ I am pleased to have the opportunity of testifying to the activities of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland during the recent troubled times. Our local Committee have received every consideration, and were enabled thereby to distribute considerable sums of money among the victims of burnings by Crown forces in this village.

“ We are all very grateful to our friends in the United States for the help given, and without which our people would have suffered most severely.

“ T. DUNNE, P.P.,
“ Cappawhite, Co. Tipperary.”

“ I beg to express my appreciation and gratitude for what the American White Cross has done for the Irish people during the recent war with England. I believe it was that aid, as well as the moral support expressed by it, that put heart and courage into the Irish people to bear and suffer and struggle as they have done. I have seen the beneficial effects of the working of the White Cross in my own parish, where two houses had been burned after an ambush. The owners were of the poorest in a rather poor parish, and they possessed no resources whatever to rebuild and refurnish their houses. The White Cross Society came to their assistance immediately, and gave them £25 each for immediate necessities, and £150 each for rebuilding and refurnishing their houses. That amount, together with some other assistance, put the houses in as good a condition as formerly. The workers of the American White Cross and the American people themselves, especially the Irish-Americans, deserve all praise and gratitude for their humanity and generosity, from the Irish people and from all humane peoples, and I have full confidence that God will reward them abundantly.

“ T. DUNNE, P.P.,

“ Kilnadeema, Loughrea.”

“ I can hardly find a suitable term to apply to the work of the American Committee. It was splendid, magnificent, the biggest manifestation of the Christian spirit of brotherhood ever seen in our country.

“ What would be the position of our people to-day but for the work of the White Cross?

“ If the American Committee had not come to our assistance, it is my personal opinion that, though we might not have been beaten, we would not have won. For the work of the Committee heartened and strengthened our people and dismayed our enemies. There was no advantage to be gained by burning a house or a farmyard if the White Cross, as they then imagined, was going to build it up again. This and the fear of reprisals stayed their hands.

“ The actual damage done by the Crown forces does not at all represent the loss to the country. For farmers, whose houses and lands lay along the public roads, could not attend to their spring work. It was not safe for any man to be seen from the public road when the Crown lorries passed.

“ In conclusion, I have again to express my high appreciation of the work of the American Committee and of the White Cross Organisation.

“ The most trying months for country people—April, May and June—are yet before us, and I trust you will be enabled to carry us through.

“ M. J. CONROY, P.P.,

“ Kilmena, Westport.”

“ I would ask you to convey our deep and sincere gratitude to all those of your people in the United States who have so nobly responded to our appeal with the open purse and generous hand, that are hall-marks of a true American always and everywhere. The cause of charity never appealed in vain to the people of America, but they have been,

I believe, especially responsive to the women and children of a race who have never spared themselves in the defence and upbuilding of your great Commonwealth.

“The generous donors will, I believe, be pleased to be assured by me, as Chairman of our local Committee, that every penny of the White Cross money that came to Castleisland was expended solely on the victims of the war.

“I enclose a brief summary of the losses and damage inflicted by the Crown forces on property-owners in this parish. It is not full or comprehensive, and does not include those who lost their lives in the struggle; but it will give your people some idea of the suffering entailed, the poverty and attendant distress, why so many are sick and shelterless, and made helpless by the cruelty of war. May we not, then, express a hope that the White Cross may be enabled to continue its beneficence during this period of transition to help to heal the wounds and repair the ravages that this cruel war has inflicted.

“J. ARCHDEACON CASEY, P.P., V.G.,

“Castleisland, Co. Kerry.”

“I find it hard to express fully my appreciation of the work done by the American White Cross for my people here in Mallow. By the awful outrage on the night of 28th September, 1920, not only were nine houses in the main street entirely burned by English soldiers of *the regular army*, but in addition the Town Hall, and, worst of all, the Condensed Milk Factory, by which a great number, mostly girls, were thrown out of employment. The funds we could raise for them were almost

exhausted when the White Cross came to our assistance last June, and since then we have received on an average £120 a week. Of this large amount not one penny was expended except on :—

“ (a) Those burned out of the factory; and

“ (b) Dependents of our boys who were fighting or interned in the various prison camps.

“ What we in Mallow could have done without the assistance received from the White Cross I do not know.

“ (Signed),

“ C. W. CORBETT, P.P., V.F.,

“ Mallow.”

“ The noble generosity of the American public, and their promptness to succour a stricken people, as well as the splendid work done here in Ireland by you and your highly capable staff, deserve, and richly deserve recognition, and this, too, in a permanent form.

“ Thanking you most gratefully on behalf of the Dingle Committee, and wishing you every blessing.

“ J. P. McDONNELL, P.P.,

“ Dingle, Co. Kerry.”

“ On behalf of the people and priests of Abbeydorney, I have been asked to convey to you and the other members of the American Relief

Committee our deep feelings of gratitude for the generous assistance you have given in the time of our great suffering.

“Thanks to the generous assistance of the American Relief Committee, these people have been enabled to build new homes, or, where they were not utterly destroyed, to repair their old homes. Were it not for the aid of the White Cross Committee ten families would have remained homeless, as they were without the means of rebuilding their ruined homes.

“In addition, grants were made by the White Cross to provide implements whereby sufferers were enabled to work at their ordinary avocations.

“Were it not for that extraordinary generosity that has always been a characteristic of the American people, the victims of the savage forces let loose on this district would have been in a very bad way indeed. But thanks to the White Cross, the material injuries they suffered are being repaired, and they look forward with confidence to a happy future.

“JAMES J. O’SULLIVAN, P.P.,
“Abbeydorney, Co. Kerry.”

“The Committee are very grateful to you, and all officials of the White Cross Society, for the kindly and sympathetic way in which you received any suggestion made by them, and for the splendid work you have done here and in other parts of the country, in relieving effectually all cases of hardship within the scope of your Society.

“DAVID O’LEARY, P.P., V.F.,
“Tralee, Co. Kerry.”

“ On behalf of the Kilcar Committee of the Irish White Cross, I would ask you to convey to the American Committee for Relief in Ireland my sincere thanks for the timely assistance rendered to several families in my parish who suffered severely through the recent political turmoil in Ireland.

“ Generous help was given in three cases of special urgency, where the bread-winner of the family was interned or in gaol, and the help in each case was much appreciated.

“ J. J. O'DONNELL, P.P.,

“ Kilcar, Co. Donegal.”

“ During the recent political disturbances in this district there were many cases of shooting, burnings, looting of houses, many imprisoned, while a great number were compelled to go ‘on the run.’ As a consequence there was much distress and suffering.

“ To relieve this distress a branch of the White Cross was established last June, and a committee formed, and, I have pleasure in stating, with the happiest results.

“ For instance, a large garage, run by two brothers, containing six motor cars, run for hire, was burned by the officers of the British Government, and, consequently, these two men lost their only means of support, and a number of chauffeurs employed by them were thrown out of employment. This case came before the White Cross Committee. One of these brothers, having a large, helpless family, was allowed £5 a week; the chauffeurs thrown out of work received £2 per week. Finally, these brothers got an advance of £500, to enable them to rebuild their garage in a small way, and to

get three motor cars, so that most of their chauffeurs are again employed, and very much suffering relieved.

“Four families whose sons were imprisoned received about £250.

“Fourteen railway men, losing their employment owing to the suspension of the trains for fourteen weeks, also received some £100 from this charitable fund.

“I take this opportunity on behalf of those relieved, and on my own behalf, to thank the subscribers and officials of the White Cross Fund. Their work was a most charitable work, and they deserve the prayers and gratitude of the Irish people

“JAMES NOLAN, P.P.,

“Chairman, White Cross Committee,
“Killorglin, Co. Kerry.”

“Speaking for this parish, I have to say that the relief distributed to several victims of the National disturbance, now happily ended, was a God-send, for which we cordially thank the American Committee of the White Cross under your kind direction.

“T. TWOMEY, P.P.,

“Ballyvourney, Co. Cork.”

“Speaking for myself and for my parishioners, especially those of them who have received substantial and much needed assistance from the White Cross, I wish to express to the American

Committee for Relief in Ireland, and to all our kind and sympathetic friends in the States who so generously gave their contributions, our most heartfelt gratitude for so nobly coming to the relief of our unhappy people in their hour of bitter sorrow and suffering.

“In words I cannot fully express the incalculable good done in this parish through the White Cross, nor the warm feelings of thankfulness in our hearts.

“D. M. O’FLYNN, P.P.,

“Crosshaven, Cork.”

“I desire to express my appreciation of the excellent work done by the American Committee for Relief in Ireland, and to convey to you my thanks for the help received by three families here in this district. Two young men, who were the main support of their families, were in prison since October, 1920, and about the same time a third young man had to go ‘on the run.’ These three families received considerable sums from the White Cross, which they appreciated very much, and which enabled them to tide over their distress.

“B. MAGUIRE, P.P.,

“Tempo, Co. Fermanagh.”

“I feel it is incumbent on me as Chairman of the local Committee of the White Cross to express to you the profound gratitude we all feel here to the great American people for their generous support of our afflicted nation during the past terrible years.

“In this town some eight families, whose bread-winners were torn from their homes and imprisoned

for many weary months without trial or accusation, received from the White Cross regular and adequate relief, without which they must necessarily have been reduced to the very verge of starvation. I beg of you to convey to the American Committee the expression of their profound gratitude for this most timely and most generous assistance.

“(REV.) JAMES J. McNAMARA, Adm.,
“ Monaghan.”

“ Taking the country on the whole, it would be impossible to over-rate the amount of good that has been done by the munificence of the American people towards the relief of distress in Ireland. This is admitted on all hands, by every rank and every class of people. One hears nothing but the loudest praise of the wonderful generosity of the American people, and of the judicious way in which their help was distributed. The everlasting gratitude of the Irish is due to those who subscribed and to those who administered the subscriptions.

“ EDMUND MORTON, P.P.,
“ Ballyhea, Co. Cork.”

“ I beg to say that all the people here are in grateful remembrance of what the American Committee of the Irish White Cross has done for the help of those who have suffered for their country. I know that families here belonging to the political prisoners were well looked after.

“ You may be sure that our parishioners are in grateful appreciation of all that has been done for us and our country by the kindness of the American people.

“ JOHN A. NOLAN, P.P.,
“ Swords, Co. Dublin.”

“ A Branch of the Irish White Cross was an essential in Meelin, Co. Cork, in the spring, 1921. An ambush of the British forces took place there on 4th January, 1921. Following the ambush the British authorities carried out official reprisals by destroying with explosives six houses in the locality. The inhabitants were left destitute, their clothes, their furniture, in fact everything they valued, was destroyed. It was at this stage the Irish White Cross Committee was established, with the Rev. John Roche, C.C., acting as Chairman and Corresponding Secretary. Every honest claim that was made, both to Dublin and to the Branch in Cork, was immediately attended to, and the Committee, during 1921, were able to distribute amongst the sufferers of the British reprisals about £140.

“ (REV.) JOHN ROCHE, C.C.,
“ Meelin.”

“ Thanks to the White Cross Society; only for it we could never have managed to eke out an existence. I have received from it up to the time of writing £49, not counting the loan granted to rebuild the house. I have been granted a loan of £300, £200 of which I have got, which will help to re-establish my home. If it were not for the White Cross I would have been sadly in need, as with its assistance I was able to provide myself with a temporary home, in which I tried, especially since the Truce, to tend my cattle and carry on my duties on my little farm, but without any profit.

“ When I kneel down at night I thank God for all my sufferings, a little of which I have related, and I heartily pray God to bless and spare my friends in Ireland and America and the world over, who have so willingly contributed to lessen our sufferings.

“ In September, 1921, a Committee was formed in the parish to secure those who were rendered homeless or destitute some of the money which was subscribed for the relief, and from this fund I received the sums of £25, £5 and £6 5s., making in all £36 5s., which, of course, was a great relief to me.

“ I was also granted a loan of £200 to rebuild my house, at which I am at present engaged. I expect to resume my work again. I am sorry I have not a photograph of the ruins of my little house to send you, as it would give the people whom you represent an idea of the warfare in Ireland, and would also go to show that the fund which they so quickly contributed to is being used for a good purpose. This is a ‘ plain, unvarnished tale ’ of my case, and I hope you will be able to gather from it the information you require. In conclusion, let me thank you for the noble and humanitarian work you and your countrymen have done on behalf of the long-suffering Irish people, and considering myself for ever your debtor.”

“ Will you please convey to the Committee of the Irish White Cross Association my sincere thanks for their generosity in lending me the sum of £1,000, to assist in re-instating portion of my property in Belfast, which was wrecked and destroyed on the occasion of the attack on the Catholic residents of Falls district in the month of July last.

“ My houses are situated immediately on the border line separating the Protestant district of Shankill Road from the Catholic district of Falls. All the inhabitants of these houses were Catholics of the artisan class—the big majority of whom were unable to obtain employment in Belfast on account of their religious beliefs—and who were for the

most part dependent for their support on the charity of their more fortunate neighbours.

“ Compared with the sufferings and losses of my tenants, who were already in poor circumstances, my losses, being purely monetary, must of necessity appear trivial, but as a result of the attack damage to the extent of £12,000, as estimated by my Architect, has been done to my property—13 of my houses being razed to the ground, whilst 22 were so badly damaged as to make them unfit for habitation. I have lodged a claim for compensation with the Belfast Corporation, but it is not yet heard, and even when it is disposed of, the compensation, I am informed, will only be payable in five yearly instalments, the consequence being that, owing to the intolerance of the Protestant majority in this city, I am deprived of my principal source of income, and, in addition, have to discharge the ground rents payable in respect of the property.

“ Thanks, however, to the loan of £1,000 received from the White Cross Association, and with the addition of some money of my own, I have been enabled to restore a number of the houses, and make them habitable again, by some of the people who formerly lived in them.”

“ When the White Cross was established I sent on my application to Dublin for a loan to rebuild my house.

“ Having carried out the necessary formalities, the White Cross Committee granted me a loan of £300, and immediately forwarded the first instalment of £100, and on the 2nd of this month sent me on a further cheque for £100, their engineer in the

meantime having inspected the part of the house I had built. When completed I expect the balance of £100 of the loan outstanding.

“I am deeply indebted to the White Cross Reconstruction Committee for the promptitude with which they dealt with my claim for a loan. Only for their timely succour I would still be homeless. I beg to tender to them my warmest gratitude, and earnestly request them to convey to the kind, warm-hearted and generous people of liberty-loving America my heartfelt thanks for their generous subscriptions.”

“All my savings, including money, were stolen the evening my house was burned. My son, who was my only help, was ‘on the run,’ so that I had nothing to exist on. Were it not for the very prompt action of the White Cross I had not even a bed to lie on. We were compelled to lie on a damp floor.

“I received £35 by way of assistance from the White Cross prior to the loan.

“The amount of the loan granted was £200. I have partially rebuilt the old home, and am as comfortable as circumstances would permit. We are carrying on, tilling crops as usual.

“I regret I have no photograph of my house.

“Before I conclude I would respectfully ask you to convey to the American people the heartfelt gratitude of an Irish mother and (widow). Your people have been more than friends to us, and God will reward them for their kindness.

“God bless the American people.”

“I was idle all the time until the Truce. My Parish Priest, through the White Cross, gave me a little help from time to time to support myself and my family, and then, to repair my forge, the amount of £33. I am still lodging with another family. I got £100 from the Irish White Cross also to do up my house, which is nearly built now. Only for the White Cross we should have been unable to start our new house yet. We pray night and day for kind American people, who have always come to the aid of the suffering Irish people.”

“I was doing a very good business, educating my children, and living comfortably out of the profits, and I am now one year and three months out of business, and would not be able to start to rebuild my house only for the loan I got from your Committee. I beg again to thank the Irish White Cross for the help they have given me, viz., a free grant of £25 in the middle of October, 1921, and a loan, to help to rebuild my premises, of £500.”

“I wish to join with others in thanking most heartily the contributors, supporters, and Committee of the Irish White Cross on the cordial and honest manner in which they distributed and discharged the great duty imposed on them in relieving the distress which the people were enduring, in assisting financially and otherwise those who were persecuted and afflicted by the Crown forces.”

APPENDIX A.

Appeals for Funds issued by the Irish White Cross and by the American Committee for Relief in Ireland.

APPEAL OF THE IRISH WHITE CROSS.

The Irish White Cross has been founded in the belief that there is work to be done in Ireland for the relief of hardship and suffering, and the reconstruction of industry, which must appeal to the patriotism of the Irish people as well as to the common humanity of all well-wishers of the country throughout the world. In a time of political disturbance and violence it is still possible for men and women to forget their differences, religious and political alike, and to bend all their energies to a constructive effort for the preservation of their country. The appeal which we make to-day is made not in the name of any section of a people, but in the name of humanity; no political distinctions exist in suffering, and none must exist in its relief. The men and women who constitute the Irish White Cross think differently on many things; they are united by the bond of common charity.

The first appeal must be made to the people of our own country, for they can maintain their courage and confidence in this hour of distress only by showing their determination to build up whatever is destroyed, and to replace every damage which is done to the industry and agriculture of Ireland. If we allow our spirit to be conquered by hardship, the future of our country will be dark, indeed. It has ever been the pride of the people of this nation to go forward through all trials and oppression with undaunted cheerfulness, and we should not to-day be found wanting.

But to our friends overseas we must also appeal, for the need is immediate and great beyond our resources. Cities have been burned, factories and shops wrecked and plundered, farms and farm-buildings, with their stores of crops, destroyed.

By these causes, and by the death or imprisonment, often without charge or trial, of the breadwinners of thousands of families, women and children have been brought to the verge of starvation. Unemployment is widespread, trade and commerce have been seriously injured, and the basic industries of the country, such as dairying, are threatened. For the repair of all this damage we appeal to those in all countries whose capacity to feel pity is not yet deadened. Already in America the appeal has met with an eager answer, and large sums of money and enthusiastic workers are coming forward to repeat in Ireland the great work lately done in Belgium and in Central Europe.

The Irish White Cross believes that the names of those who have associated themselves with it will justify and give confidence in the appeal for funds among all well-wishers in whatever country. Its policy will be, while recognizing the need for immediate monetary aid to those in want, to give that aid mainly through reconstruction, so that those who have lost their means of livelihood shall not also lose their self-respect by becoming pensioners on the charity of others. In pursuance of this policy, the General Council has authorized the Standing Executive Committee to expend or lend funds for any of the following purposes :—

1. The relief of distress and hardship in the case of individuals or groups of persons deprived of the means of livelihood.

2. The restoration or repair of buildings, and the replacement or repair of furniture, fittings, machinery, implements, or personal effects.

3. The purchase or provision of stock-in-trade or raw materials to replace stocks or materials removed or destroyed.

4. The provision of employment by the organization of works or otherwise.

Parish Committees will be organised throughout Ireland, and District Committees where necessary. The local bodies

will collect money and remit it to the Executive, and they will advise on local needs and assist in the distribution of grants. It is intended that the work shall be of a truly national character, and shall supplement and co-ordinate, while in no way destroying, all work of the same character which is now being done by local or sectional organizations. To relieve acute distress and repair the material damage in Cork, Belfast, Lisburn, Tipperary, and Clare, to mention only a few examples, millions of pounds would be needed. Charity and patriotism alike require that we should without delay combine our energies and resources, so that the burden which now presses grievously on some of our people may be so borne as to exalt us all.

LAURENCE O'NEILL,

Chairman.

L. SMITH-GORDON,

Chairman of Standing Executive Committee.

JAMES G. DOUGLAS,

Honorary Treasurer.

JAMES MCNEILL,

Honorary Secretary.

Mansion House, Dublin,
26th February, 1921.

APPEAL OF A. C. R. I. TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

In Ireland to-day thousands of women and children have been driven to the pitiful refuge of the fields and open country. Balbriggan, Granard, Tralee, Templemore, Trim, Tobercurry, Lisburn, Thurles, Mallow, and numerous other towns and villages have been burned and are partly or wholly in ruins. In Cork alone acres of business buildings and homes have been wiped out by fire.

Over forty creameries, the co-operative plants of great and small communities, built by Irish farmers, have been razed to the ground, and the economic units they served have been paralyzed.

Thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment by the burning of factories and creameries, and in consequence of the generally disturbed conditions in Belfast alone, thirty thousand persons, shipyard workers and their families, are on the verge of starvation.

The transportation system has broken down, so that it is difficult to distribute even such supplies as are available in Ireland.

To meet this appalling situation, and to cope with it before it reaches a point where it may menace the very existence of the Irish people, the American Committee for Relief in Ireland has been formed. This Committee is a non-political and non-sectarian body, solely humanitarian in aim, which seeks the co-operation of all those in whom human suffering evokes sympathy. This American Committee purposes to supply relief to the women and children in Ireland, without regard to political or religious distinctions, through trained relief workers, distributing foodstuffs, clothing, building materials, and medical stores.

The suffering and the helpless in Ireland seek aid from the American people, who have never yet refused an appeal from the suffering and helpless. To relieve the bitter need of the Irish people, we confidently appeal for aid to the humanity of America.

There is little to add to the above, save to point out that Ireland is virtually the only place in the world where the destruction of resources has been continuous. To-day industry is paralyzed in Ireland, and the greater part of the able-bodied male population is leading a hunted and fugitive existence. If present conditions continue unrelieved, the Irish race in Ireland faces virtual annihilation. We are confident that Americans of every class and creed will respond promptly to avert the terrible fate menacing a people to whom they are so closely bound by ties of kinship and of common heritage.

APPENDIX B.

**Report to the American Committee for Relief in Ireland by
the Delegates who visited the Country in the Spring of 1921.**

Your delegation to Ireland respectfully reports that its members arrived in Ireland on February 12th, and, with the exception of Mr. France, had left Ireland by March 31st. During these forty-nine days members of your delegation conducted an investigation into economic distress in Ireland, which, they respectfully submit, has not been equalled in scope by any other investigative body, either Irish, British, American, or of any other nationality.

The members of your delegation themselves visited nearly one hundred communities in Ireland in which acute distress exists. They collected reports as to many other communities from responsible persons of all shades of political opinion, and also had the co-operation of responsible members of the English Society of Friends, who visited the devastated communities of Ireland, and were similarly moved by the distress which they found there existing.

The members of the delegation visited no less than ninety-five cities, towns, villages, and creameries, in which destruction of buildings or property by the military or police forces of the British Crown has occurred.

The places visited range in geographic location from Gortahork, on the extreme north-western coast of Ireland, to Timoleague, on the extreme southern coast ; from Dublin, in the east, to Clifden and Aran Islands, in the west. They are located in twenty-two of the thirty-two counties of Ireland.

In the ninety-five places visited there occurred 90 per cent. of the material damage to property owned by the

civil population, which has been recorded during the twelve months ending March 31st, 1921.

Your delegation viewed this damage personally, and personally collected on the spot evidence as to the value of the property destroyed. In addition, written statements from reliable sources were supplied to your delegation regarding material damage in the small number of afflicted communities which they were unable to visit.

Summarizing this data in regard to material damage and personal distress, your delegation reports that the material damage to Irish shop-buildings, factories, creameries, and private dwelling-houses, inflicted by the British forces during the past twelve months, amounts approximately to \$20,000,000 ; that without reductions in the cost of labour and materials the cost of replacing the buildings will be approximately \$25,000,000.

The number of buildings which have been damaged or partially or wholly destroyed within the past twelve months, and which we have viewed, is upwards of 600. Irish Republican statistics place the number of property units destroyed at upwards of 2,000, but this includes not only buildings, but individual shops in buildings, their contents, isolated farm buildings, hayricks, etc.

Homes Destroyed.

The destruction of buildings in 150 towns in so small a country as Ireland is relatively as serious as the destruction of buildings in 5,000 towns and villages would be in so large a country as the United States.

Our own general estimate of \$20,000,000 (£5,000,000) damage throughout Ireland, arrived at from our investigations on the ground, coincides substantially with the total figures collected by Irish Republican statisticians, and, it should be noted, is less by \$8,000,000 than the estimate given

us by a responsible Crown official, who is informed in regard to the data in the possession of the Crown estimate at £7,000,000.

The distress which we ourselves witnessed in the ninety-five communities which we visited, and which is scattered throughout Ireland, is, we here emphasise, a distress quite separate and distinct from that distress in Ireland which arises from unemployment due to a general trade depression, such as may be observed in countries throughout the world; it is separate and distinct from the distress arising from long-continued poverty, such as may be observed in the slums of New York or Chicago or London; it is wholly separate and distinct from the economic distress of Irish women and children whose male relatives may be engaged in active armed opposition to the British military forces operating in Ireland, and whose male relatives, thus being unable to engage in their ordinary industrial avocations, leave their families in want.

The distress we are here dealing with is that of habitually thrifty and industrious workers, who would be able to continue their occupations and to support their families were it not for the abnormal situation now existing in Ireland; men and women who are emphatically neither the so-called "professional beggars," who are common to all countries, nor the workers whom the trade stagnation, which has been prevalent throughout the world, has temporarily thrown out of employment; they are an industrious section of the community, never previously in need of help from anyone, and who would not accept it now if the alternative which faced them were not the starvation of their families; men and women who have quietly gone about their peaceful pursuits all their lives, and who have steadfastly refrained from taking any part in armed activities. It is for such persons, now thrown out of work, that we confidently invoke the sympathy and practical help of every American, solely on the ground of that fundamental mercy and humanity which transcends all else.

100,000 in Need.

We found that there are some 25,000 families, numbering approximately 100,000 men, women and children, who are in pitiful need of instant help from the American people.

We may point out that even when employed the workman in Ireland receives a wage so low that it would be difficult for an American to understand how the Irish workman can support himself and his family upon such a wage. Now, through no fault of their own, the families to which we refer are without even this pitifully small income. In most cases their pathetic savings have already been spent for the barest necessities of existence. They need bread, and they need it quickly.

The present prevailing wage for ordinary unskilled labour in Ireland ranges from \$9 to \$14 a week; even those who are working at electric power houses, for example, receive only \$14; motormen receive \$12.50; conductors, \$11.50; farm labourers rarely more than \$8.

To-day the 25,000 families to which we refer have not even this scanty income. They do not receive the unemployment allowance, which was limited to eight weeks. What will it cost to feed them? A wages commission was recently appointed in Cork City to determine the minimum on which a man and family could exist in reasonable respectability. A report fixing the minimum living wage at \$14 was returned.

The families which we found to be justly within the province of your Committee's helpfulness are now cut off from earning this \$14 a week, or any sum whatever. They can manage to keep alive on a diet which would seem a starvation diet to the poorest American family—a diet chiefly consisting of no more than bread and tea at every meal, with a bowl of soup two or three times a week as a luxury—and this meagre diet, the rental of bare lodgings,

and an almost infinitesimal supply of fuel for heat and cooking, can be obtained for \$7 a week. This will keep life in a family of five—father, mother, and three children—and this is the minimum amount which will be necessary for each family.

When we state that there are 25,000 families now in need of help in Ireland, we are quite aware that the ordinary traveller through Ireland, going only by train, and visiting not more than two or three communities, would be unaware that any such degree of distress exists. From his train window he would see only a green and fertile countryside, of immense agricultural wealth, and fully capable of supporting its population. In the towns he might visit he would see, in his casual walks through their business streets, little that would lead him to believe that acute distress exists.

But if he looked beneath the surface, if he went from house to house, outside the beaten paths of travel, eliminating all the distress from unemployment resulting from trade depression, and all the distress of the habitual mendicant class, he would still find, in every little village that he entered, two, three, or a half-dozen families which had never before been in want, and which, but for the fact that they had at last come face to face with starvation, would never let their need be guessed.

Let him go, as we did, from town to town, adding up such cases as these, one by one, until he had gone the length and breadth of Ireland; let him visit the towns where shops and factories have been destroyed, and add up the numbers of those kept out of employment by the crippling of those industries; let him take note of the hundreds of families brought to continued distress by the destruction of the business centre of Cork, and the thousands of families in Belfast whose wage-earners have been able to earn nothing since they were driven from the shipyards of Belfast seven months ago; and when he has looked at the total he

himself has set down, he will wonder that his casual thought was that there is little distress.

They face Starvation.

One hundred thousand men, women and children! Less than three per cent. of the total population of Ireland, it is true; but if 3,000,000 Americans were faced with actual starvation to-day, who had never known distress until to-day, who would say that there was not a most pitiful situation in America?

From the crippling of the co-operative creameries in Ireland, 15,000 farmers, who supplied these creameries with milk for butter and cheese-making, are suffering severe loss, and are faced with even more deeply serious distress in the immediate future. Their situation is not due to general business depression. It has been brought about by conditions wholly outside their control, and not related in any way to market stagnation, which, in fact, does not exist. Upon these 15,000 farmers depend 45,000 women and children.

Creameries Destroyed.

Our investigation into the destruction of creameries in Ireland, the reasons for this destruction, the economic importance of the co-operative dairy business in Ireland, and the cost of restoring the damaged creameries to their normal state, was conducted by Mr. Oren B. Wilbur, a dairy farmer of wide experience and mature judgment, and Mr. William B. Price, an architect. Mr. Wilbur and Mr. Price were at all times in close consultation with the officials of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Plunkett House, Dublin, the organisation of which Sir Horace Plunkett is the head, and which was built up by the co-operative movement in Ireland during the past 27 years. It is purely an industrial organisation, and one which has sedulously kept itself free from political interests

of any sort throughout its existence. On the major portion of their tour of investigation, covering hundreds of miles, Mr. Wilbur and Mr. Price were accompanied by Mr. Fant, the chief travelling representative of Plunkett House in the organisation and operation of creameries.

During the past year, ending on April 9, 1921, more than 50 attacks by Crown forces were made on co-operative creameries, resulting in their partial or total destruction. Mr. Wilbur and Mr. Price personally visited 29 of these creameries, including all those where the most heavy damage was inflicted, and directly collected reports regarding 26 others. They estimate that the amount necessary to restore these 55 creameries to operation is £114,279, but state that in arriving at this figure they adopted drastically reduced estimates, and give it as their opinion that the total sum needed to rehabilitate the creameries completely amounts to £250,000.

The summary :				Men, Women Children
On dairy farms	...	...	...	60,000
In Belfast	...	...	...	23,000
In Cork	...	...	...	8,000
In 150 smaller communities throughout Ireland	...	...	...	3,000
				<hr/> 94,000

The minimum needed is \$450,000 a month.

Material Damage.

There are to-day upwards of 1,000 co-operative agricultural societies in Ireland, with a membership of 140,000 farmers. Their trade in butter, cheese, and other agricultural products amounted during the year 1919 to £11,158,583, making the average annual turn-over for each society £10,886. The 55 damaged creameries included

many whose annual turn-over was far above this average, the total number of farmers supplying these creameries with milk being approximately 15,000, and their aggregate annual turn-over being approximately £1,000,000.

At the annual meeting of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in Dublin on March 22nd last, at which Mr. France was present, the annual report was submitted. In regard to the destruction of creameries the report said :—

“ The material damage resulting from over fifty attacks on creameries—over sixty, if fourteen raids on one society were to be separately included—cannot yet be exactly stated, but will, it is estimated, exceed £200,000. If consequential damage is taken into account, as in some cases the County Court Judges who had tried them agreed to be equitable, the financial loss was incalculable. It may run to £1,000,000.”

In the supplementary report drawn up by Mr. Wilbur, at the conclusion of the exhaustive investigation made by Mr. Price and himself, Mr. Wilbur says :—

“ I wish to express my conviction that the creameries and their auxiliaries are the most important of all the immediate relief needs which the American people can help, and I wish to strongly urge upon the Committee the consideration of their claims. The whole butter and cheese-making industry will be hard hit if these creameries are not soon set running again; and, further, the cattle-raising business will also be affected. Now, all the calves are raised on the skimmed milk from the creameries, instead of a part being ‘ vealed,’ as they are in many parts of America. Then, when they are about two years old, they are sold to the graziers in the midlands, who fatten them on the rich grass lands of central Ireland, and then ship them to England. If the lack of creameries results in the farmers being compelled to sell their cows, as it already has in some

measure, it will mean that there will be less and less calves, and soon the graziers will find themselves short of feeding stock, and both the dairy and meat product of the kingdom will be seriously curtailed."

An extract from the reports, supplementary to this report, which are offered by the individual members of the American Society of Friends, who were members of your delegation to Ireland, reads :—

The Need.

"Is there a need? There seems to me to be a great need in Ireland, need resulting from three fundamental causes :— (1) The burning of their homes; (2) the destruction of industries upon which persons relied for their support; and (3) the lack of employment resulting from economic stagnation. The need from the burning of homes seems to me to be both great and pressing. We went through dozens of towns where there were homes and shops burnt; in most cases these people have made claims for damages, but, in the meantime, these claims have not been paid; in many cases there is little probability of their ever being paid. As an individual I am entirely convinced that many of these people were entirely innocent of any complicity in the acts for which they were punished by having their homes burnt."

APPENDIX C.

Letter from the Irish Delegation of Plenipotentiaries to the Representatives of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland on the conclusion of their visit in the Autumn of 1921.

The following letter was addressed by the Irish Delegation of Plenipotentiaries to Judge Campbell and Mr. J. J. Pulleyn on their departure from London after visiting Ireland in connection with the work of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland :—

“ IRISH DELEGATION OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES,

“ SECRETARIAT,

“ 22 HANS PLACE, S.W.,

“ 29th October, 1921.

“ To

“ Judge Campbell and Mr. J. J. Pulleyn,

“ On their departure to America, October 30th, 1921.

“ The Irish Delegates now engaged in negotiations for peace wish to express to you, and ask you to convey to the other members of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland, the profound gratitude which they, in common with their fellow-countrymen, feel toward the Committee, and all those in the United States who have contributed to its funds, for the generous assistance sent to Ireland for the relief of the suffering, loss and misery incurred by the Irish people in their struggle for national independence.

“ We also take the opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the able and devoted work done in Ireland on behalf of your Committee by Messrs. France and McCoy and those associated with them.

“ It is not only that the material aid you have organised has been of incalculable benefit, you and your friends have helped to sustain the spirit of our people, and to make them realise that your great nation stood beside them with encouragement, sympathy and hope in the terrible ordeal undergone in the efforts to save their national institutions and the very fabric of their national life from destruction.

“ Once more we thank you for all that your humane intervention has meant for our people, and heartily wish you God-speed.

“ Beir buaidh agus beannacht,

“ ARTHUR GRIFFITH.

“ MICHAEL COLLINS.

“ GEORGE GAVAN DUFFY.

“ R. C. BARTON.

“ EAMONN DUGGAN.”

APPENDIX D.

IRISH WHITE CROSS SOCIETY.

**Geographical Distribution of Personal Relief to the
31st August, 1922.**

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ANTRIM—								
Antrim	....	....	51	10	0			
Belfast	....	....	362,356	16	1			
Derrymacash	....	....	285	0	0			
			<hr/>			362,693	6	1
ARMAGH—								
Armagh	....	....	1,916	0	0			
Forkhill	....	....	4	0	0			
			<hr/>			1,920	0	0
CARLOW—								
Arles	....	....	65	0	0			
Bagenalstown	....	....	123	10	0			
Ballon	....	....	13	0	0			
Carlow	....	....	1,302	0	0			
Clonmore	....	....	357	15	0			
Hacketstown	....	....	169	0	0			
Rathvilly	....	....	92	5	0			
Tullow	....	....	254	0	0			
			<hr/>			2,376	10	0
CAVAN—								
Arva	....	....	231	0	0			
Cavan	....	....	1,264	5	0			
Dromard	....	....	47	0	0			
Stradone	....	....	6	10	0			
Swanlinbar	....	....	100	0	0			
Tullycoo	....	....	7	0	0			
			<hr/>			1,655	15	0
			<hr/>					
Carried forward,						£368,645	11	1

		£	s.	d.
	Brought forward,	368,645	11	1
CLARE—		£	s.	d.
Ballinacally	....	45	0	0
Bodyke	....	70	0	0
Clare Abbey and Killone		55	0	0
Clare County, general	....	3,233	18	5
Doolin	....	50	0	0
Ennis	....	1,143	12	0
Ennistymon	....	983	5	0
Feakle	....	294	10	0
Kilkeshan	....	320	0	0
Killaloe	....	93	0	0
Kilrush	....	30	0	0
Lacken	....	15	0	0
Lahinch	....	847	10	0
Lissycasey	....	206	0	0
Meelick	....	156	0	0
Meelin	....	125	0	0
Miltown-Malbay	....	947	4	0
Rath	....	8	15	0
Scariff	....	189	0	0
Sixmilebridge	....	118	10	0
Tulla	....	160	0	0
			9,091	4 5
CORK—				
Ballyvourney	....	66	0	0
Bantry	....	100	0	0
Blarney	....	50	0	0
*Cork District Committee		170,398	3	9
Kilbehenny	....	18	0	0
Kilmichael	....	25	0	0
Kingwilliamstown	....	269	0	0
Mallow	....	180	0	0
Rosscarbery	....	20	0	0
			171,126	3 9
Carried forward,		£548,862	19	3

* Cork District Committee distributed this amount among the city and county branches.

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	Brought forward,					548,862	19	3
DERRY—								
Derry	....	....	754	0	0			
						754	0	0
DONEGAL—								
Ardara	....	....	477	0	0			
Ballybofey	....	....	305	10	0			
Ballyshannon	....	....	324	15	0			
Bruckless	....	....	100	0	0			
Buncrana	....	....	269	0	0			
Bundoran	....	....	137	0	0			
Burtonport	....	....	241	0	0			
Carrick	....	....	80	0	0			
Cloughaneely	....	....	187	10	0			
Cresslough	....	....	60	10	0			
Donegal County, general			350	0	0			
Dungloe	....	....	256	10	0			
Falcarragh	....	....	6	10	0			
Glencolumbkille	....	....	199	0	0			
Glenties	....	....	134	0	0			
Gweedore	....	....	78	0	0			
Inniskeel	....	....	71	0	0			
Inver	....	....	508	0	0			
Kilcar	....	....	88	0	0			
Killybegs	....	....	245	0	0			
Killygordon	....	....	216	10	0			
Kincasslagh	....	....	170	15	0			
Letterkenny	....	....	246	0	0			
Mount Charles	....	....	58	0	0			
Upper Rosses	....	....	22	10	0			
						4,832	0	0
DOWN—								
Banbridge	....	....	4,090	11	0			
Bangor	....	....	85	0	0			
Castlewellan	....	....	75	0	0			
Down	....	....	735	0	0			
Dromore	....	....	156	10	0			
Carried forward,			£5,142	1	0	£554,448	19	3

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	Brought forward,		5,142	1	0	554,448	19	3
DOWN—(<i>contd.</i>)								
Hilltown	....	....	137	0	0			
Kilkeel	....	....	77	0	0			
Laurencetown	....	....	3,210	0	0			
Mourne Abbey	....	....	120	0	0			
Newry	....	....	3,827	4	0			
Warrenpoint	....	....	789	10	0			
			<hr/>			13,302	15	0
DUBLIN—								
Dublin	....	...	53,906	5	4			
Lusk	....	....	143	10	0			
Rush	....	....	161	0	0			
Skerries	....	....	460	10	0			
Swords	....	....	253	8	0			
Tallaght	....	....	66	0	0			
			<hr/>			54,990	13	4
FERMANAGH—								
Belcoo	....	....	50	0	0			
Enniskillen	....	....	26	0	0			
Newtownbutler	....	....	155	0	0			
Tempo	....	....	85	0	0			
			<hr/>			316	0	0
GALWAY—								
Annaghdown	....	....	50	0	0			
Ardrahan	....	....	45	0	0			
Athenry	....	....	615	10	0			
Caherlistrane	....	....	160	0	0			
Carna	....	....	70	0	0			
Cashel	....	...	181	0	0			
Castlegar	....	..	119	0	0			
Clarenbridge	....	...	24	0	0			
Clifden	....	....	749	15	0			
Clonbur	....	....	68	0	0			
			<hr/>			<hr/>		
	Carried forward,		£2,082	5	0	£623,058	7	7

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,		£2,082	5	0	623,058	7	7
GALWAY—(contd.)							
Craughwell	....	197	0	0			
Dunmore	....	16	0	0			
Galway	....	1,880	15	0			
Galway County, general		1,118	0	0			
Glenamaddy	....	134	10	0			
Headford	....	265	0	0			
Innisboffin	....	300	0	0			
Kilbecanty	....	25	0	0			
Killeenadeema	....	94	0	0			
Kinvara	....	64	0	0			
Leenane	....	79	0	0			
Lettermore	....	95	0	0			
Lettermullen	....	100	0	0			
Loughrea	....	923	5	0			
Maam	....	100	0	0			
Mountbellew	....	16	0	0			
Moycullen	....	328	10	0			
Moylough	....	64	0	0			
Oranmore	....	511	0	0			
Portumna	....	25	0	0			
Recess	....	170	0	0			
Rossmuck	....	500	0	0			
Roundstone	....	210	0	0			
Shrule	....	140	0	0			
Spiddal	....	238	0	0			
Tuam	....	2,734	0	0			
					12,410	5	0

KERRY—

Abbeydorney	....	30	0	0
Annascaul	....	105	0	0
Ardfert	....	346	5	0
Ballybunion	....	1,313	0	0
Ballydavid	....	147	11	0
Ballyferriter	....	467	0	0
Ballyheigue	....	135	0	0

Carried forward, £2,543 16 0 £635,468 12 7

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,		2,543	16	0	635,468	12	7
KERRY—(contd.)							
Ballylongford	....	634	0	0			
Ballymacelligott	....	741	5	0			
Cahirciveen	....	155	0	0			
Camp	....	259	0	0			
Castlegregory	....	807	15	0			
Castleisland	....	1,116	0	0			
Castlemaine	....	413	0	0			
Causeway	....	80	0	0			
Dingle	....	1,709	2	0			
Duagh	....	289	10	0			
Fenit	....	138	0	0			
Firies	....	291	10	0			
Fossa	....	511	0	0			
Glenbeigh	....	472	10	0			
Glenflesk	....	1,222	15	0			
Kenmare	....	975	0	0			
Kerry County, general....		653	15	0			
Kilgarvan	....	293	0	0			
Killarney	....	1,635	0	0			
Killeentierna	....	530	10	0			
Kilmorna	....	74	0	0			
Killorglin	....	742	15	0			
Killury	....	511	5	0			
Knocknagoshel	....	90	0	0			
Listowel	....	2,102	0	0			
Lixnaw	....	680	0	0			
Milltown	....	335	0	0			
Newtownsandess	....	199	0	0			
Rathmore	....	743	12	0			
Tralee	....	3,901	5	0			
Tuosist	....	378	10	0			
Ventry	....	650	0	0			
					25,878	15	0

Carried forward,

£661,347 7 7

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,				661,347	7	7

KILDARE—

Allen	....	....	79	9	0	
Athy	....	....	125	15	0	
Ballymore Eustace	....	....	230	0	0	
Carbury	....	....	100	0	0	
Clane	....	....	35	0	0	
Kilcock	....	....	177	5	0	
Kildare	....	....	540	5	0	
Kill	....	....	270	10	0	
Naas	....	....	275	5	0	
Newbridge	....	....	736	15	0	
Rathangan	....	....	34	5	0	
Suncroft	....	....	161	0	0	
<hr/>						2,765 9 0

KILKENNY—

Graigenamanagh	....	....	12	10	0	
Kilkenny	....	....	696	10	0	
Piltown	....	....	20	0	0	
<hr/>						729 0 0

KING'S COUNTY—

Ballycumber	....	....	70	0	0	
Banagher	....	....	174	0	0	
Birr	....	....	365	10	0	
Cloghan	....	....	276	0	0	
Edenderry	....	....	192	10	0	
Ferbane	....	....	258	0	0	
Killeagh	....	....	5	5	0	
King's County, general			265	15	0	
Kinnitty	....	....	9	0	0	
Philipstown	186	0	0	
Rhode	292	0	0	
Tullamore	2,154	10	0	
<hr/>						4,248 10 0

Carried forward,	£669,090	6	7
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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,				669,090	6	7
LEITRIM—						
Aughawilliam	147	10	0			
Ballinamore	322	10	0			
Carrick-on-Shannon	302	10	0			
Carrigallen	135	0	0			
Cloone	126	0	0			
Dromard	99	0	0			
Drumkeerin	223	10	0			
Drumshambo	250	0	0			
Drumsna	49	10	0			
Glenfarne	130	10	0			
Killeenummery	41	0	0			
Kiltoghert	452	0	0			
Leitrim	353	0	0			
Leitrim County, general	110	0	0			
Manorhamilton	108	0	0			
Ruskey	103	0	0			
Tullaghan	90	0	0			
				3,043	0	0
LIMERICK—						
Abbeyfeale	298	10	0			
Ballingarry	130	0	0			
Ballybricken	25	0	0			
Ballylanders	686	10	0			
Cahirconlish	100	0	0			
Drumcollogher	146	0	0			
Granagh	25	0	0			
Herbertstown	1,119	17	0			
Kilmallock	266	0	0			
Knocklong	35	0	0			
Limerick	5,572	6	4			
Mountcollins	70	0	0			
Newcastlewest	259	10	0			
O'Brien's Bridge	10	0	0			
O'Callaghan's Mills	100	0	0			
Oola	115	0	0			
Carried forward,	£8,958	13	4	£672,133	6	7

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	Brought forward,	8,958	13	4	672,133	6	7
LIMERICK—(contd.)							
Pallasgreen	....	57	0	0			
Rathkeale	....	194	0	0			
Shanagolden	....	562	0	0			
Tournafulla	....	290	0	0			
		<hr/>			10,061	13	4
LONGFORD—							
Abbeylara	....	45	0	0			
Aughnaccliffe	....	294	0	0			
Ballinamuck	....	135	0	0			
Ballymahon	....	113	0	0			
Clonbroney	....	1,581	5	0			
Clonguish	....	63	0	0			
Drumlish	....	15	0	0			
Granard	....	465	0	0			
Killoe	....	170	0	0			
Lanesboro'	....	314	18	3			
Legan	....	74	0	0			
Longford	....	1,256	17	1			
Newtownforbes	....	147	0	0			
Whitehall	....	185	0	0			
		<hr/>			4,859	0	4
LOUTH—							
Ardee	....	66	0	0			
Carlingford	....	44	0	0			
Carrickmullen	....	19	10	0			
Castlering	....	6	0	0			
Collon	....	66	0	0			
Drogheda	....	1,189	15	0			
Dundalk	....	1,849	5	0			
Dunleer	....	126	0	0			
Louth County, general		56	0	0			
		<hr/>			3,422	10	0
MAYO—							
Achill	....	196	10	0			
Aghamore	....	91	0	0			
		<hr/>			<hr/>		
	Carried forward,	£287	10	0	£690,476	10	3

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	Brought forward,	287	10	0	690,476	10	3
MAYO—(<i>contd.</i>)							
Aghagower	....	158	0	0			
Ballina	....	754	10	0			
Ballindine	....	45	0	0			
Ballinrobe	....	498	0	0			
Ballyhaunis	....	235	0	0			
Bangor	....	20	0	0			
Belmullet	....	87	10	0			
Carracastle	....	88	0	0			
Castlebar	....	495	10	0			
Charleston	....	65	0	0			
Claremorris	....	127	10	0			
Cong	....	711	10	0			
Cross Cong	....	23	10	0			
Crossmolina	....	102	4	9			
Foxford	....	237	0	0			
Glenhest	....	45	0	0			
Hollymount	....	6	0	0			
Islandeedy	....	251	0	0			
Kilkelly	....	200	5	0			
Kilmeena	....	645	0	0			
Kiltimagh	....	201	10	0			
Louisburgh	....	469	0	0			
Mayo County, general		153	0	0			
Mulrany	....	16	0	0			
Newport	....	244	0	0			
Parteen	....	6	10	0			
Swinford	....	354	10	0			
Tourmakeady	....	341	12	0			
Westport	....	2,200	13	5			
					9,069	15	2
MEATH—							
Bohermeen	...	70	0	0			
Dunshaughlin	...	105	0	0			
Kells	...	195	0	0			
Kilskyre	...	20	0	0			
	Carried forward,	£390	0	0	£699,546	5	5

IRISH WHITE CROSS REPORT. 135

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,	390	0	0	699,546	5	5
MEATH—(contd.)						
Meath County, general ...	635	1	0			
Navan	411	0	0			
Trim	277	0	0			
	<hr/>			1,713	1	0
MONAGHAN—						
Ballybay	129	10	0			
Carrickmacross	237	10	0			
Castleblayney	130	0	0			
Clones	462	10	0			
Kilglass	78	10	0			
Monaghan	1,026	10	0			
Roslea	125	18	0			
Tydavnet	465	10	0			
	<hr/>			2,655	18	0
QUEEN'S COUNTY—						
Ballinakill	20	0	0			
Ballybrophy	9	0	0			
Borris-in-Ossory	177	0	0			
Clonaslee	60	0	0			
Mountmellick	624	5	0			
Mountrath	118	0	0			
Portarlington	204	5	0			
Rathdowney	235	10	0			
Stradbally	116	0	0			
	<hr/>			1,564	0	0
ROSCOMMON—						
Ballaghadereen	267	15	0			
Ballinalough	59	0	0			
Ballintubber	399	0	0			
Ballyfarnon	325	15	0			
Boyle	349	15	0			
Castlerea	766	0	0			
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Carried forward,	£2,167	5	0	£705,479	4	5

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,			2,167	5	0	705,479	4	5
ROSCOMMON—(contd.)								
Elphin	...	...	387	0	0			
Kilcorkey	...	...	301	10	0			
Kilkeevin	...	...	396	10	0			
Knockcroghery	...	...	716	0	0			
Loughglynn	..	...	827	5	0			
Mantua	...	...	121	0	0			
Roscommon	...	...	1,519	0	0			
Strokestown	...	...	787	0	0			
						7,222	10	0
SLIGO—								
Ballymote	...	...	789	0	0			
Easkey	...	...	16	0	0			
Enniscrone	...	...	52	5	0			
Gurteen	...	...	272	0	0			
Sligo County, general	...	...	2,234	0	0			
Tubbercurry	...	...	493	10	0			
						3,856	15	0
TIPPERARY—								
Annacarty	...	...	155	0	0			
Ardfinan	...	...	10	0	0			
Ballina	...	...	54	0	0			
Ballinahinch	...	....	15	0	0			
Ballingarry	....	....	137	5	0			
Ballybeg	....	....	4	0	0			
Bansha	....	....	327	0	0			
Boherlahan	....	....	344	10	0			
Cahir	....	....	327	10	0			
Cappawhite	....	....	140	0	0			
Cashel	....	....	859	5	0			
Clogheen	....	....	47	5	0			
Clonmel	....	....	482	0	0			
Clonoulty	....	....	77	0	0			
Cloughjordan	225	0	0			
Carried forward,			£3,204	15	0	£716,558	9	5

IRISH WHITE CROSS REPORT.

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		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Brought forward,		3	204	15	0	716,558	9	5
TIPPERARY—(contd.)								
Donaskeigh	50	0	0				
Donohill	229	5	0				
Dundrum	50	0	0				
Emly	148	10	0				
Fethard	215	0	0				
Golden	...	57	10	0				
Goold's Cross	208	0	0				
Kilcommon	100	0	0				
Knocknavilla	464	5	0				
Mullinahone	99	0	0				
Nenagh	1,514	14	0				
Newport	418	0	0				
Portroe, Nenagh	170	0	0				
Rossmore	112	0	0				
Templemore	...	436	7	6				
Thurles	1,282	15	0				
Tipperary	2,337	7	6				
		<hr/>			11,097	9	0	
TYRONE—								
Aughnacloy	108	0	0				
Ballinaderrig	25	0	0				
Coalisland	30	0	0				
Cookstown	45	0	0				
Clogher	48	4	0				
Dunamore	50	0	0				
Dungannon	437	10	0				
Moy	25	0	0				
Omagh	114	10	0				
Sion Mills	10	0	0				
Strabane	297	15	0				
		<hr/>			1,190	19	0	
WATERFORD—								
Aglish	286	15	0				
Ardmore and Grange	643	5	0				
Clashmore	237	15	0				
		<hr/>			<hr/>			
Carried forward,		£1,167	15	0	£728,846	17	5	

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,	1,167	15	0	728,846	17	5
WATERFORD—(<i>contd.</i>)						
Dungarvan	870	4	0			
Dunmore East	2	0	0			
Lismore	425	15	0			
Newtown	80	10	0			
Old Parish and Ring ...	340	10	0			
Stradbally	54	0	0			
Tallow	250	0	0			
Waterford	329	5	0			
	<hr/>			3,519	19	0
WESTMEATH—						
Athlone	1,632	9	2			
Castlepollard	177	0	0			
Curraghboy	314	0	0			
Dangan	7	0	0			
Fore	288	0	0			
Glasson	85	0	0			
Kilbeggan	336	10	0			
Moate	297	0	0			
Mullingar	713	10	0			
Newtown, Moate	875	0	0			
Rochfortbridge	210	5	0			
Tang	57	0	0			
Tubberclair	14	0	0			
Westmeath County, general	330	5	0			
	<hr/>			5,336	19	2
WEXFORD—						
Adamstown	20	0	0			
Ballycullane	98	10	0			
Ballygarrett and River- chapel	79	0	0			
Ballywilliam	37	0	0			
Camolin	8	0	0			
Camross	39	10	0			
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Carried forward,	£282	0	0	£737,703	15	7

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,	282	0	0	737,703	15	7
WEXFORD—(<i>contd</i>)						
Enniscorthy	972	0	0			
Ferns	209	10	0			
Gorey	865	10	0			
Kiltealy	20	0	0			
New Ross	45	0	0			
Oylegate	26	8	0			
Wexford	895	0	0			
				3,315	8	0

WICKLOW—						
Arklow	321	0	0			
Bray	347	0	0			
Glendalough	7	10	0			
Rathdrum	10	0	0			
Wicklow County, general	482	11	10			
				1,168	1	10
				742,187	5	5

Relief distributed through Irish Republican Prisoners' Dependents' Fund and other Societies	46,028	9	0
	£788,215	14	5

APPENDIX E.

IRISH WHITE CROSS SOCIETY.

**Reconstruction Commission.—Geographical Distribution of
Amounts sanctioned to 31st August, 1922.**

					£	s.	d.
Antrim	....	....	....	....	1,850	0	0
Carlow	....	....	....	....	500	0	0
Cavan	....	....	....	....	1,500	0	0
Clare	....	....	....	....	27,500	0	0
Cork	....	....	....	....	47,090	0	0
Donegal	....	....	....	....	2,175	0	0
Down	....	....	....	....	2,200	0	0
Dublin	....	....	....	....	9,810	0	0
Fermanagh	....	....	....	....	465	0	0
Galway	....	....	....	....	18,345	0	0
Kerry	....	....	....	....	43,625	0	0
Kildare	....	....	....	....	600	0	0
Kilkenny	....	....	....	....	500	0	0
Leitrim	....	....	....	....	2,180	0	0
Limerick	....	....	....	....	9,510	0	0
Longford	....	....	....	....	2,700	0	0
Louth	....	....	....	....	1,450	0	0
Mayo	....	....	....	....	4,390	0	0
Meath	....	....	....	....	1,100	0	0
Roscommon	....	....	....	....	9,075	0	0
Sligo	....	....	....	....	9,300	0	0
Tipperary	....	....	....	....	36,431	0	0
Tyrone	....	....	....	....	750	0	0
Waterford	....	....	....	....	1,275	0	0
Westmeath	....	....	....	....	4,692	0	0
Wexford	....	....	....	....	4,050	0	0
					£243,063	0	0

We certify that the foregoing figures have been extracted by us from the books of the Irish White Cross Society, and that they are correct.

D. O'CONNOR & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Auditors.

13 WESTMORELAND STREET,
DUBLIN, 20th October, 1922.

APPENDIX F.

IRISH WHITE CROSS SOCIETY.

Committee for Maintenance of Orphans.

JAMES H. WEBB, *Chairman.*

MADAM O'RAHILLY,	}	<i>Hon Treasurers.</i>
JOHN O'NEILL,		
SEAN NUNAN,		

ALDERMAN MRS. CLARKE.

MRS. SCOTT, Cork.

Secretary—MRS. CEANNT.

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